NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2014

Ground Floor Hearing Room
Archdale Building
512 N. Salisbury St
Raleigh, NC

Commission Members	Others Present	
Craig Frazier	Pat Harris	Steve Bennett
Manly West	David Williams	Rob Baldwin
Tommy Houser	Natalie Woolard	Dr. Richard Reich
John Langdon	Julie Henshaw	Timothy Dale
Bill Yarborough	Kelly Ibrahim	Kristina Fischer
Charles Hughes	Ralston James	Tom Ellis
	Ken Parks	Sandra Weitzel
	Tom Hill	Chester Lowder
	Richard Clark	Dewitt Hardee
Commission Counsel	Helen Wiklund	Kirsten Frazier
Jennie Hauser	Davis Ferguson	Dick Fowler
	Lisa Fine	Keith Larick
Guest	Eric Pare	

Vice-Chairman Craig Frazier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and charged the Commission members to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, that may exist for agenda items under consideration, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. Commissioner Langdon declared a conflict for item #9 and announced that he would recuse himself from the vote.

1. Approval Of Agenda:
Vice-Chairman Frazier reviewed the agenda. He noted one correction to the agenda. Item #4, Association report, will be presented by NCASWCD President John Langdon. Commissioner Yarborough moved to approve the agenda as modified. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langdon. The motion carried.

2. Approval Of Minutes – January 5, 2014 Meeting: The minutes of the Commission meeting held on January 5, 2013 were presented. Commissioner Yarborough noted a few minor grammatical changes that were shared with staff. Commissioner Yarborough offered a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Houser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Special Note: Due to technical difficulties with the Audio/Visual Equipment, the actual order of business was conducted out of sequence. Items #3, 6, and 7 were postponed until after completion of Item #9. However, for ease of reading, the minutes are recorded in the sequence of the agenda.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. Division Report: Ms. Pat Harris, director of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, welcomed Commissioner West back to the Commission. She also recognized Dr. Richard Reich, Mr. Richard Clark, and Mr. Timothy Dale with the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly.

She presented the division report, which included the following:

- Announcement on the 2014 Conservation Employees Training in Greenville in August
- Reviewed the status of the Stream Debris Removal Project
- Described the proposed PL-566 Assessment Project
- Provided a summary of the Accelerated Technical Assistance for Conservation Program
- Referenced a news article about a landowner in Wyoming who was fined for building an unpermitted pond on his property and reiterated the need for all ponds to receive all required permits prior to the final engineering design.
- Announced the role of ATAC employee Daniel Hamm to help coordinate engineering requests
- Announced the Farm Pond Workshop Series
- Reminded the Commissioners on the April 15 deadline for them to submit their Statements of Economic Interest.

The handout for the division report is included as Attachment 3.

4. Association Report:

Commissioner Langdon, NCASWCD President, presented a brief overview on the following:

- 176 Supervisors and 151 guests attended the NCASWCD Annual Meeting in Asheville.
- 30 people represented North Carolina at the NACD Annual meeting in Anaheim, CA on February 2-5, 2014.
- The School of Government Training was rescheduled to May 20-21 due to inclement weather on the original date in February.
- The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for May 22, just prior to the Commission's May meeting.
- The Ad Hoc Committee on Area Alignment is asking districts supervisors and staff and partnership employees to complete an online survey to provide feedback to the committee.

The handout provided for item 4 is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

5. NRCS Report:

Vice-Chairman Frazier called attention to the written report from NRCS that is included as Attachment 5.

6. Updates on the Nutrient Criteria Development Plan and EPA's Proposed Definition for Waters of the United States.

Mr. Keith Larick with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provided an overview on the status of the North Carolina Nutrient Criteria Development Plan (NCDP). North Carolina's plan relies on site-specific strategies for managing chlorophyll-a instead of using nitrogen and phosphorus thresholds.

He reminded the commission of its opposition to the first draft of the NCDP, and stated that the second draft addresses many of the concerns expressed by the commission and others who provided comments on the original draft. Existing nutrient strategies will be unaffected. The first three watersheds to be targeted will include High Rock Lake, Middle Cape Fear River, and Albemarle Sound.

He provided an overview of DENR's rules review process.

He also discussed how EPA and NC regulates "Waters of the United States", comparing federal vs. state regulation of various water bodies and wetlands.

He responded to questions from the Commission.

Vice-chairman Frazier thanked Mr. Larick for his presentation and discussion. Mr. Larick's presentation is included in the minutes as Attachment 6.

7. Program Year 2013 Cost Share Programs Annual Report

Ms. Kelly Ibrahim and Mr. Tom Hill presented a summary of the 2013 annual reports for the Agriculture Cost Share Program, Community Conservation Assistance Program, and the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program. These reports were submitted to the General Assembly in January.

Ms. Ibrahim also updated the Commission on the status of Program Reviews and the new online cost share contracting system, which will go live on April 2, 2014.

Commissioner Yarborough asked about the CCAP survey. Mr. Hill responded that 48 districts have responded to date.

Vice-Chairman Frazier thanked Ms Ibrahim and Mr. Hill for their presentation and discussion.

V. ACTION ITEMS

8. Consent Agenda:

Commissioner West moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yarborough, and it passed unanimously.

8A. Appointment of Supervisors

- Julius "Wayne" Packard.; Burke SWCD; filling the unexpired term of Nancy Taylor
- Robin Smith; Rutherford SWCD, filling the unexpired term of James Hollifield
- Chad E. Decker; Cherokee SWCD; filling the unexpired term of J.B. Reeves

8B. Approval of Cost Share Supervisor Contracts

Contract No.	District	Supervisor Name	Practice(s)	Contract Amount
03-2014-003	Alleghany	Bobby Evans	Stock Trail, Well, Tank, Heavy Use Area & Livestock Exclusion	$25,014
53-2014-005	Lee	John H. Gross	Grassed Waterway (revision)	$218
53-2014-008	Lee	John H. Gross	Terrace (revision)	$356
61-2014-008	Mitchell	Ed Terrell	Stream Crossing	$2,766
71-2014-004	Pender	W.W. Murrell, Jr.	Cropland Conversion – Grass	$1,809
71-2014-005	Pender	W.W. Murrell, Jr.	Cropland Conversion – Grass	$2,781
75-2014-267	Polk	Frank Smith	Livestock Exclusion	$24,999
78-2014-013	Robeson	Walter K. McGirt	3-Year Conservation Tillage	$11,786
82-2014-008	Sampson	Dennis R. Waller (Wayne SWCD Supervisor)	Cropland Conversion	$3,218
96-2014-008	Wayne	John Yelverton	Litter Spreader	$7,500

8C. Job Approval Authority
Pond Site Assessment
Kenny Ray – Orange SWCD
Todd Roberts – Orange SWCD

8D. Technical Specialist Designation Recommendation

Waste Utilization/Nutrient Management

On recommendation of the Director of the NC Cooperative Extension Service:
Deanna Wagner, CES, Davidson County
Ethan Henderson, CES, Buncombe County
Daniel Hedgecock, NCSU Soil Science Department

On verification of training and experience:
Amanda Harris, Hertford, NC

The handouts provided for items 8A-8D are attached and are an official part of the minutes.

9. Allocation of the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)
Vice-Chairman Frazier announced that Commissioner Langdon has recused himself from the discussion and vote on this item.

Ms. Julie Henshaw called attention to the handout for item 9, which is attached as an official part of the minutes. The AgWRAP Advisory Committee met several times to prepare a recommendation on allocating the AgWRAP funds. The handout lists the committee's general recommendations for prioritizing use of AgWRAP funds. Ms. Henshaw announced that there were 82 applications received and said the handout lists the ranking of the applications received for each region following the recommended priorities of the advisory committee. Commissioner West offered a motion to approve the committee's recommended allocation methodology with one minor change, removing the words "agricultural operation type in each" from the 3rd bullet in the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes, and it was approved.

Commissioner West moved to set a minimum ranking score of 5%. For lack of a second the motion died.

Commissioner Houser moved and Commissioner Yarborough seconded the motion to approve the ranking in the attachment following the revised allocation formula. The motion carried.

10. Supplemental Allocation of Cost Share Funds
Ms. Kelly Ibrahim referred to Attachment 10, which is included as an official part of the minutes. She reported that the table presents the supplemental allocation requests of districts who meet the commission's eligibility criteria for both the Agriculture Cost Share Program regular allocation and the requests for allocation from the 319 funds for the Impaired/Impacted Streams Initiative. Commissioner Langdon offered a motion to approve the proposed supplemental allocation, and Commissioner West seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. Update on Lenoir SWCD Special Review
Mr. David Williams called attention to the December 10, 2013 letter to the Lenoir SWCD that was included as Attachment 11. The letter is a response to the action plan developed by the staff of the Lenoir district in response to the initial findings of the Lenoir Special Review in August 2013. Mr. Williams stated that the district's action plan was not sufficient to address the concerns noted in the division's August 15, 2013 initial findings letter.

Commissioner Yarborough offered a motion with 4 parts:

1. The commission send a letter to the Lenoir Soil and Water Conservation District (with a copy to the Lenoir County Commissioners and Lenoir County Manager) requiring the soil and water conservation district to file by May 1, 2014 a detailed written report responding to every inadequacy noted in the division's December 10, 2013 special review letters and requiring the district's chairman and cost share technician to appear before the commission at its May 22, 2014 meeting to explain these inadequacies and the actions to correct these inadequacies.
2. Beginning immediately, the commission must approve each Ag Cost Share Program, CCAP, and AgWRAP contract of the Lenoir Soil and Water Conservation District before that contract can be effective, and the commission must approve each Lenoir Soil and Water Conservation District request for reimbursement prior to the division issuing payment. A Lenoir District supervisor and district cost share technician must appear before the commission at a scheduled meeting to present these contracts and reimbursement requests to the commission.

3. Beginning immediately, no Lenoir Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor will be eligible for cost share contracts.
4. The division is directed to consult with the Attorney General's office to take appropriate legal action for Lenoir District contracts that appear to have been overpaid or were ineligible.

Commissioner West seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hughes moved to amend the motion to include a reference to the initial findings letter dated August 15, 2013. Commissioner West seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Frazier called for a vote on the amended motion, and the motion passed.

Commissioner West stated that he reviewed the powers and duties of the Commission, and he suggested consideration of enhancing the Commission's authority to control funds. He offered a motion that the Division work with counsel to explore the need for additional authority. Mr. Yarborough seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Vice-Chairman Frazier thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and he asked if there were any additional comments from the Commision or the public.

Commissioner Yarborough congratulated Vice-Chairman Frazier on the excellent meeting and thanked him for his willingness to step up to respond to a needs whenever they arise. Commissioner Langdon echoed Commissioner Yarborough's remarks.

Mr. Dick Fowler announced that the Association met with Mr. James Tillman, NRCS Southeast Regional Conservationist, about the lingering issues with addressing drainage needs in Eastern NC resulting from hurricanes and storms. The Association has sent a letter from the Association's Water Resources Committee to try to obtain a more favorable interpretation as to how the USDA Emergency Watershed Program can be used to address the needs for removing storm debris from streams and drainage ways.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
With no further business, Vice-Chairman Frazier declared the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Patricia K. Harris
_____
Patricia K. Harris, Director
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.
(Sign & Date)

David B. Williams
_____
David B. Williams, Recording Secretary
(Sign & Date)

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on May 22, 2014.

Patricia K. Harris
_____
Patricia K. Harris, Director
(Sign & Date)

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
AGENDA
DRAFT

WORK SESSION
Archdale Building
Ground Floor Hearing Room
512 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27604
March 18, 2014
7:00 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION
Archdale Building
Ground Floor Hearing Room
512 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27604
March 19, 2014
9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The State Government Ethics Act mandates that at the beginning of any meeting the Chair reminds all the members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the Commission. If any member knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict, please state so at this time.

II. PRELIMINARY – Business Meeting March 19, 2014

Welcome

III. AGENDA / MINUTES

1. Approval of agenda — Chair Vicky Porter

2. Approval of the January 5, 2014 minutes — Chair Vicky Porter

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. Division report — Ms. Pat Harris

4. Association report — Mr. Tommy Houser

5. NRCS report — Mr. Tim Beard

6. Updates on the N.C. Nutrient Criteria Development Plan & EPA's Proposed Definition for Waters of the United States — Mr. Keith Larick, NCDA&CS

7. PY2013 Cost Share Programs Annual Report — Ms. Kelly Ibrahim, Mr. Tom Hill

V. ACTION ITEMS

8. Consent Agenda
   - A. Nomination of supervisors — Ms. Kristina Fischer
   - B. Supervisor contracts — Ms. Kelly Ibrahim
   - C. Job approval authority — Ms. Natalie Woolard
   - D. Technical specialist designation — Ms. Natalie Woolard

9. AgWRAP Review Committee recommendations — Ms. Julie Henshaw
   PY2014 application approvals

10. Supplemental Allocations — Ms. Kelly Ibrahim
    - A. Agriculture Cost Share
    - B. Impaired/Impacted Stream Initiative – 319 funding

11. Lenoir SWCD Special Review Findings — Mr. David Williams

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2014

Grand Ballroom C
Omni Grove Park Inn
Asheville, NC

Commission Members	Others Present	
Vicky Porter	Pat Harris	Steve Bennett
Craig Frazier	David Williams	Kristina Fischer
Donald Heath	Natalie Woolard	Charles Mitchell
Tommy Houser	Julie Henshaw	Ricky May
Charles Hughes	Kelly Ibrahim	Charles Bass
John Langdon	Ralston James	Don Rawls
Bill Yarborough	Sandra Weitzel	Ben Knox
	Tom Hill	William Byrum
	Kim Livingston	Kirsten Frazier
Commission Counsel	Dick Fowler	Larry West
Jennie Hauser	Joseph Hudyncia	Leonard Killian
	Rob Baldwin	Jeff Joyner
Guest	Lisa Fine	Jonathan Wallin
Tim Beard	Marvin Cavanaugh	Donna Mills
Dr. Richard Reich	James D. Booth	April Hoyt
	Linda Hash	Bobby Stanley
	Janice Pack	Wayne Moser
	Charles Davenport	Pam Hawkins
	Mamie Caison	June Mabrey
	Janie Woodle	Nancy Carter
	Donna Rouse	Jeff Harris
	Jimmy Mason	

Chairwoman Vicky Porter called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and charged the Commission members to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, that may exist for agenda items under consideration, as mandated by the State Ethics Act.

Chairwoman Porter asked each Commission member to introduce themselves.

1. Approval Of Agenda:

Chairwoman Porter reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Frazier moved to remove the supervisor appointment for Boyce Deitz in Jackson SWCD from the consent agenda and add to the agenda as item 10 and to approve the agenda as revised. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Houser. The motion carried.

2. Approval Of Minutes – November 20, 2013 Meeting: The minutes of the Commission meeting held on October 1, 2013 were presented. Commissioner Frazier noted that under the declaration of conflict of interest, Commissioner Langdon announced that he would recuse himself from discussion and the vote. He also noted that the header for item 6C should read Approval of Job Approval Authority, not Technical Specialist Designation. He also noted a minor grammatical change to the public comments section that was shared with staff earlier. Commissioner Frazier offered a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Commissioner Yarborough seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. Division Report: Ms. Pat Harris, director of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, presented the division report. Her presentation included the following:

- Provided the dates for the 2014 School of Government training (February 11-12, 2014). Sixteen appointed supervisors are required to take the training. 36% of newly elected supervisors in the 2012 election participated in the training in 2013.
- Announced that Laura Parrish has accepted the position of Administrative Secretary and will begin work on January 21
- Announced that Allen Hayes, Jr. will be the new Soil Scientist in the Central Region effective January 21. Mr. Hayes previously worked in the division's soil survey program in the 1980s.
- Reported that approval of the recommended candidate for the Administrative Officer position is working its way through Human Resources.
- Informed the commission that the division has received instructions for preparing for the 2014-15 budget, including a proposed 2% reduction in the division's overall budget.
- Reminded the commission that their Statements of Economic Interest are due April 15th.
- Reported on the division's presentation to the Environmental Review Commission Stormwater Subcommittee on the role of agriculture and forested land in stormwater runoff on December 11, 2013. Division staff will be taking the subcommittee members to the John Langdon Farm on January 13 to look at issues faced by a farmer in a developing region.
- Recognized regional coordinator Ralston James for his 20-year anniversary of service to the division.
- The handout for the division report is included as Attachment 3.

Chairwoman Porter also congratulated Ralston James and thanked Commissioner Langdon for opening his farm to help educate our state elected officials.

4. Association Report: Commissioner Houser, NCASWCD President, presented a brief overview on the following:

- Market-Based Conservation Initiative
- Upcoming NACD meeting in Anaheim, CA on February 2-5, 2014
- Ad Hoc Committee on Area Alignment

The handout provided for item 4 is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

5. NRCS Report: Mr. Tim Beard, State Conservationist for the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), presented a report on expected changes for 2014 including the following:

- New Farm Bill and budget
    - Ramifications of the new federal budget for NC are not yet known
    - Most major programs remain authorized, but some are not
- Internal organizational structure at national and state level
    - New service delivery model. Some existing administrative personnel may be asked to support other states in addition to NC
    - Realigning responsibilities for soil scientists
        - State soil scientist no longer responsible for soil survey activities
        - Resource soil scientists report to state soil scientist
        - Taking advantage of technology should help to manage wetland determination backlog
- Improved processes for certifications
    - Update the Field Office Technical Guide
    - Supplement Job Approval Authority
    - Break Certified Conservation Planners down into categories to facilitate more employees to qualify for certification
        - Cropland
        - Pastureland
        - Forestland
        - Farmstead
        - Master (comprehensive)

The powerpoint presentation provided for item 5 is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

Chairwoman Porter thanked Mr. Beard. Chairwoman Porter also recognized Dr. Richard Reich, and thanked him for supporting the commission with his attendance.

6. Nutrient Sensitive Waters Annual Agricultural Reports

Ms. Julie Henshaw provided an overview of the agricultural rule requirements and procedures in place for accounting for the reductions for the three watersheds. She also reported that funding for staff to carry out the accounting is critical.

6A. Neuse River Basin

Ms. Henshaw reported that the Neuse Basin Oversight Committee (BOC) report demonstrates agriculture's ongoing collective compliance with the Neuse Agricultural Rule and estimates further producer progress in decreasing nutrients. In crop year 2012, agriculture collectively achieved an estimated 45% reduction in nitrogen loss from agricultural lands compared to the 1991-1995 baseline, continuing to exceed the rule-mandated 30% reduction. This percentage remains the same as the reduction reported for crop year 2011. Fifteen of the seventeen LACs achieved their BOC mandated nitrogen loss reduction goal. Lenoir County achieved a 16% reduction, and Pamlico County achieved a 26% reduction. The main reasons for the decrease in percent nitrogen reduction in these counties are cropping shifts to crops with higher nitrogen application rates.

6B. Falls Lake Watershed

Ms. Henshaw reported that the Falls Lake Watershed Oversight Committee (WOC) report demonstrates that agriculture has been successfully decreasing nutrient losses in the Falls Lake

watershed. In crop year 2012, agriculture collectively exceeded its 20% Stage I nitrogen reduction goal, with a 31% reduction compared to the 2006 baseline. This percentage remains the same as the reduction reported for crop year 2011. All six of the watershed's counties exceeded the mandated 20% reduction goal this year. Phosphorus qualitative indicators demonstrate that there is no increased risk of phosphorus loss, with an 8% and 14% decrease in animal waste phosphorus production and tobacco acreage, respectively, and an increase in cropland conversion to grass and trees since the 2006 baseline.

6C. Tar-Pamlico River Basin

Ms. Henshaw reported that the Tar-Pamlico Basin Oversight Committee (BOC) report demonstrates agriculture's ongoing collective compliance with the Tar-Pamlico Agricultural Rule and estimates further progress in decreasing nutrient losses. In crop year 2012, agriculture collectively achieved an estimated 46% reduction in nitrogen loss compared to the 1991 baseline, continuing to exceed the rule-mandated 30% reduction. This represents a 3% increase in reduction compared to the 43% reduction reported for crop year 2011. Thirteen of the 14 LAC's exceeded the mandated 30% reduction goal.

The powerpoint presentation Ms. Henshaw presented and the reports on the three watersheds are attached and are an official part of the minutes.

Commissioner Heath commended Julie on the report and provided some historical perspective from a farmer. He recognized the efforts of NCDA&CS and Farm Bureau to legitimize to skeptical farmers the process of achieving and accounting for nutrient reductions on a regional basis.

Commissioner Yarborough also pointed out that the reports highlight the amount of farmland that has been lost to other land uses in these watersheds.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the modified consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langdon, and it passed unanimously.

7A. Appointment of Supervisors

- Aaron Martin; Clay SWCD; filling the unexpired term of Clay Logan
- David Jared Gainey; Richmond SWCD, filling the unexpired term of Myers Waddell

7B. Approval of Cost Share Supervisor Contracts

Contract No.	District	Supervisor Name	Practice(s)	Contract Amount
29-2014-001	Davidson	Ben Hege	Precision Nutrient Management	$14,208
46-2014-004	Hertford	Samuel B. Howell (operator)	Grade Stabilization	$4,003

			Structure	
70-2014-002	Pasquotank	Maurice Berry	Land Smoothing	$10,500

7C. Approval of Job Approval Authority
Riparian Buffer
Mike Bennett, Northampton SWCD

Critical Area Planting
Mike Bennett, Northampton SWCD

7D. Technical Specialist Designation Recommendations
Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management
Anthony Hester, Beaufort SWCD

Wettable Acres
John College, Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Joseph Hudyncia, Division of Soil & Water Conservation

The handouts provided for items 7A-7D are attached and are an official part of the minutes.

8. Cost Share Committee recommendations
Ms. Julie Henshaw called attention to the handout for item 8, which is attached as an official part of the minutes. The committee has met on several occasions over the last few months.

8A. Policy for Approval of Cost Share Applications, Contracts, and Requests for Payment
The Cost Share Committee is recommending changes to this policy to clarify that signature authority cannot be delegated for approving applications and contracts, only for requests for payment. Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the committee's recommended changes. Commissioner Yarborough seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

8B. Policy for Repairs
The committee is recommending changes to this policy to remove some specific references to forms and to make the policy reflective of all cost share programs. Commissioner Heath moved to approve the committee's recommended changes. Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

8C. Cost Share Programs Spot Check Policy
The committee is recommending clarifying which contracts need to be spot checked adding language to the policy alerting districts to take note of biosecurity concerns for livestock operations when scheduling spot check visits and clarifying that the spot checks should include all practices and all fields on the subject contract. Commissioner Langdon moved to approve the committee's recommended changes. Commissioner Houser seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

8D. Non-compliance policy

The committee is recommending a near complete rewrite of the policy to better combine the non-compliance policies of the various cost share programs into one overarching policy. Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the committee's recommended changes. Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

9. District Issues

Ms. Ibrahim presented the following district issues, referring to the handout for items 9A-9B, which is attached as an official part of the minutes.

9A. Approval of a Agricultural Cost Share Program Contract on Government Property

Ms. Kelly Ibrahim referred to the handout for item 9A, which is included as part of the minutes. Mr. Marvin Cavanaugh and Mr. James Booth, supervisors from Stokes SWCD were present to answer any questions from the Commission. The contract involves land that is currently in the process of placement to a conservation easement to the Stokes district. The project is partially funded by a grant from the Division of Water Resources, and the district is preparing to request a second grant from DWR. NRCS EQIP funds are also expected to be part of the project, along with funds allocated by the commission for Impaired/Impacted Streams Initiative. Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the requested extension. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Houser. The motion carried.

9B. Exception for Program Eligibility

Ms. Ibrahim called attention to the letter included in the packet for item 9B, which is included as part of the minutes. Mr. Don Rawls , Supervisor from Pender SWCD, and Mr. Jason Turner, district technician, were present to answer any questions from the Commission. The contract involvesrepair for cropland conversion to grass. The applicant is the landowner who does not have any of the documentation to demonstrate eligibility. The district provided a copy of the conservation plan that is required for the Commission to approve the eligibility for contract. Commissioner Frazier noted that the information provided fulfills the requirements for eligibility and moved to approve the requested extension. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heath. The motion carried.

10. Approval of Appointment of Supervisor

Chairwoman Porter called on Ms. Harris to explain the concerns with the nomination of Boyce Deitz to complete the unexpired term of Jeff McCall in Jackson SWCD. Ms. Harris said that the Jackson district noted in the minutes of its April 2013 meeting that Mr. McCall had moved out of Jackson County and was no longer qualified to serve as a supervisor. The district had tried to obtain a written resignation from Mr. McCall without success. Therefore, there is no official documentation that the seat is vacated. Ms. Harris has asked Regional Coordinator Davis Ferguson to secure a written resignation from Mr. McCall who currently resides in Haywood County. Mr. Ferguson felt confident he would be able to secure a signed resignation from Mr. McCall.

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the appointment of Boyce Deitz effective today, conditional upon receipt of documentation that Jeff McCall has resigned or is no longer qualified to serve as a district supervisor for Jackson SWCD. Commissioner Houser seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
Chairwoman Porter recognized Donald Heath and thanked him for his service to the Commission. Mr. Heath added that it has been an honor to serve as president of the Association and on the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Chairwoman Porter asked if anyone had any public comments. With no public comments, she thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
With no further business, Chairwoman Porter declared the meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

_____
Patricia K. Harris, Director
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.
(Sign & Date)

_____
David B. Williams, Recording Secretary
(Sign & Date)

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on March 19, 2014.

_____
Patricia K. Harris, Director
(Sign & Date)

Division of Soil and Water Conservation Report

NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission
March 19, 2014

North Carolina Division of SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION *Yours for Life*

2014 Conservation Employee Training

- *Hold the date….*
- August 12-14, 2014
- City Hotel & Bistro, Greenville NC
- Host district – Pitt SWCD

THE CITY BISTRO

Stream Debris Removal Project Phase I

- Streams/Drainage channels blocked from storm debris from Hurricane Irene and Spring tornadoes in 2011
- $600,000 awarded from Division of Water Resources to remove debris from streams
- $3.36 million requested
- 21 projects contracted in 18 counties
  - 9 SWCDs, 7 counties, 4 drainage districts, 1 town
- $513,222 in payments approved

Rowland Creek – Beaufort SWCD

Before

After

Debris Removal Contractors at Work

Ahoskie Creek – Hertford SWCD

Goose Creek – Pamlico SWCD

Stream Debris Removal Project Phase II

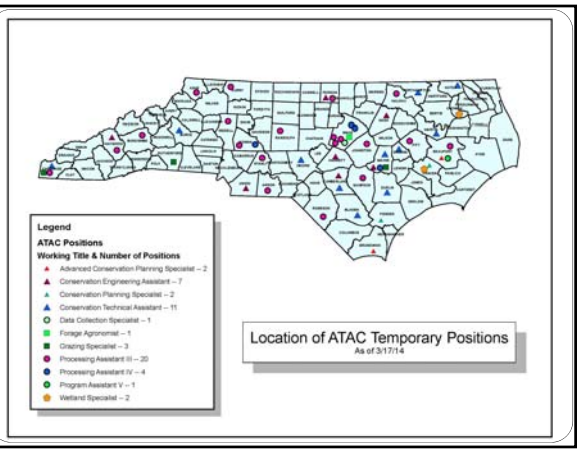
- Requested approval to redirect $120,000 of remaining PL-566 capital funds to fund Phase II
- Announced to previous project sponsors an opportunity to request supplemental funding
- Applications due April 4, 2014
- Approximately $195,000 available

PL-566 Project Assessment

- 110 PL-566 dams
- 39% are over 40 years old
- Propose to redirect $404,768 of remaining PL-566 capital funds to inspect structures and assess repair/renovation needs
- Prioritize based on age of structure, hazard classification, materials used for construction, and availability of match from local sponsors

ATAC – Accelerated Technical Assistance for Conservation

- NRCS and Division 5 year agreement for $6M
- NRCS provides funds to enable division to hire part-time temporary employees across state
- Purpose is to increase available technical assistance for accelerated implementation of conservation programs and practices
- 54 positions
- Converting from Temporary Solutions to temporary positions with NCDA&CS
- http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/districts/AcceleratedTechnicalAssistanceforConservationATAC.html



Wyoming welder faces $75,000 a day in EPA fines for building pond on his property

All Andy Johnson wanted to do was build a stock pond on his sprawling eight-acre Wyoming farm. He and his wife Katie spent hours constructing it, filling it with crystal-clear water, and bringing in brook and brown trout, ducks and geese. It was a place where his horses could drink and graze, and a private playground for his three children.

But instead of enjoying the fruits of his labor, the Wyoming welder says he was harangued by the federal government, stuck in what he calls a petty power play by the Environmental Protection Agency. He claims the agency is now threatening him with civil and criminal penalties – including the threat of a $75,000-a-day fine.

The government says he violated the Clean Water Act by building a dam on a creek without a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Further, the EPA claims that material from his pond is being discharged into other waterways. Johnson says he built a stock pond -- a man-made pond meant to attract wildlife -- which is exempt from Clean Water Act regulations.

The property owner says he **followed the state rules** for a stock pond when he built it in 2012 and has an April 4-dated letter from the Wyoming State Engineer's Office to prove it.

"Said permit is in good standing and is entitled to be exercised exactly as permitted," the state agency letter to Johnson said.

But the EPA isn't backing down and argues they have final say over the issue. They also say Johnson needs to restore the land or face the fines.

Division Engineering Policy:

Division technical staff shall receive a copy of the permit or exemption prior to finalizing design and moving forward with installation of a project where applicable

Daniel Hamm
Part-time Conservation Program Assistant
ECU Senior; major in Construction Management
Ag background; AutoCad and surveying

Focus – to develop and implement a streamlined technical assistance request process (Virtual Boss Software)

Farm Pond Workshop Series

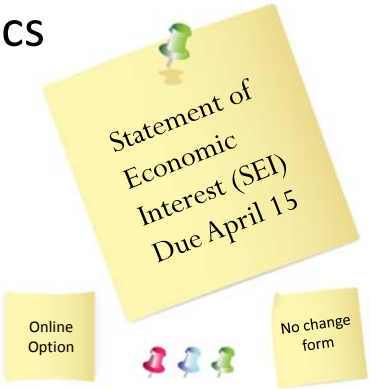
Planning a Pond – Kinston, Feb. 6-7
- 21 district employees
- 6 division employees (including trainers)

Planning a Pond – Crossnore, March 18-19
- 26 district employees
- 8 division employees (including trainers)

* Next sessions will focus on Pond Construction Oversight (TBA)



Ethics



Division of Soil & Water Conservation

http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/

(919) 733-2302

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
4407 Bland Road, Suite 117
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609
Voice 919.873.2107
Email: Stuart.Lee@nc.usda.gov
Web: www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov

2014 Spring Update

Farm Bill

The Agriculture Act of 2014 allows all men and women who feed millions around the world to invest confidently in the future. The bill recognizes the potential of new and expanding markets for the agriculture industry. It also expands support for organic producers. The bill renews conservation efforts to protect our fields, forests and waters, and it, expands the potential for economic growth in rural America by investing in renewable energy and emerging bio-based industry.

As the Bill enters into the beginning stages of implementation, more information on Farm Bill specifics and how it benefits landowners in North Carolina will be placed on our State Website at www.nc.nrcs.gov.

Budget

On December 26, 2013, President Barack Obama signed a bipartisan budget deal. The "deal" gives the Agency a two year reprieve from Continuing Resolutions for funding, eases automatic spending cuts and reduces the risk of government shutdown. It also gives the Agency more flexibility for long term fiscal planning.

North Carolina 2014 Financial Allocations
Total NRCS Financial Assistance allocation = $27,753,776
Total EQIP Financial Assistance allocation = $16,590,067
Total WRP Financial Assistance allocation = $6,300,000
Total CSP Financial Assistance allocation = $2,906,000
Total FRPP Financial Assistance allocation = $1,360,709

(Program allocations presented above are based on prior Farm Bill and allocation and do not reflect new FARM BILL policy. New Information will be provided as it become available.)

North Carolina NRCS Technical Soil Science Division

The North Carolina NRCS Technical Soil Science Division provides technical assistance in soil sciences to customers, partners and conservationists across the state in an effort to educate, inform and guide sustainable use of soil resources. North Carolina NRCS Technical Soil Science Division includes, assisting with wetland and Highly Erodible Land (HEL) compliance, preforming on-site soil investigations, and assisting with the use of soils data.

Field Contacts:

Area 1 (Orange) - Kristin May, Resource Soil Scientist, 704-637-2400 ext 104, Kristin.May@nc.usda.gov

Area 2 (Green) - Richard Brooks, Resource Soil Scientist, 919-934-7156 ext. 139, Richard.Brooks@nc.usda.gov

Area 3 (Yellow) - Vacant

New Hires in FY 2013

In 2013, we filled vacant positions across the state by hiring new staff to help deliver and manage Farm Bill programs. John Gavin Thompson, District Conservationist (Bladen) - Emily Pohlman, District Conservationist (Transylvania, Henderson) - Kay Anderson, District Conservationist (Davie, Davison) - James Ledford, District Conservationist (Martin) - Amy Williams, District Conservationist (Washington, Tyrell) - Will Byrum, District Conservationist (Warren, Franklin) - Julius George, District Conservationist (Caswell, Alamance) - Paige Seago, Soil Conservationist (Sampson) - Steven Smith, Civil Engineer (Raleigh) - Jerry Raynor, Assistant State Conservationist (Raleigh) - Tim Beard, State Conservationist (Raleigh)

Improved Processes

FOTG - In 2014, we will be reviewing and updating all sections of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). FOTG is used by field staff, as well as, Certified Conservation Planners (CCP), people with Job Approval Authority (JAA) and Technical Service Providers (TSP). The update to the FTG will improve our ability to quickly and efficiently access and utilize technical guidance for planning.

JAA - NRCS is supplementing Job Approval Authority (JAA) for vegetative and management practices to add measurable criteria for when the knowledge, skill and ability needed for JAA has been sufficiently demonstrated. To obtain JAA, the applicant must be able to independently develop and furnish designs for a minimum of two jobs, assist with layouts as needed, then checkout and verify a minimum of two installations, and submit all work to a reviewer who already has JAA for concurrence.

CCP – In 2014 we will be taking steps to improve accessibility of becoming a Certified Conservation Planner (CCP). We will create new CCP categories for each land use (Crops, Pasture, Forest and Farmstead). Conservation Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) will be linked to JAA and CCP certifications. We are creating “Special Endorsements” by land use CCP categories to indicate ability for further specializations in planning a land use. We have created two CCP categories, Conservation Planner and Master Conservation Planner.

Important Dates / Events

**Detailed information on dates listed below can be found on our Website at www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov.*

North Carolina Cover Crop and Soil Health Forum	February 18, 2014
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program Application Deadline	February 28, 2014
Conservation Innovation Grants Application Deadline	March 7, 2014
EQIP and WHIP Application Third Review	March 21, 2014
EQIP and WHIP Application Fourth Review	May, 16, 2014

For more and up-to-date information, follow NRCS on www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov. If you have questions about the information published in the 2014 Spring Update, please contact Stuart Lee at Stuart.lee@nc.usda.gov or 919.873.2107.

Your guide to the new Farm Bill Conservation Programs

Below is a quick summary of changes made to conservation programs in the new Farm Bill, enacted on February 7, 2014. These programs are administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The new Farm Bill streamlines conservation programs that enable farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to get assistance.

To get started with NRCS, visit **www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted** or visit your local USDA service center.

	Previous Farm Bill	vs.	New and Streamlined Farm Bill
Financial Assistance	Environmental Quality Incentives Program Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	→	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
	Conservation Stewardship Program	→	Conservation Stewardship Program
	Agricultural Management Assistance	→	Agricultural Management Assistance
Easements	Wetlands Reserve Program Grassland Reserve Program Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program	→	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
	Healthy Forests Reserve Program	→	Healthy Forests Reserve Program
Partnerships	Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative Agricultural Water Enhancement Program Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Great Lakes Basin Program	→	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
Other	Technical Service Providers	→	Technical Service Providers
	Conservation Innovation Grants	→	Conservation Innovation Grants
	Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program	→	Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program
	Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program – administered by Farm Service Agency	→	Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program
	*Emergency Watershed Protection Program**	→	*Emergency Watershed Protection Program**
	*Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program**	→	*Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program**

**EWP and Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program are not Farm Bill programs but are offered by NRCS; Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program was funded through the 2014 Farm Bill.*

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

March 2014

ACEP

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Overview

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.

Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land.

Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit agricultural producers and the environment.

Benefits

Agricultural Land Easements protect the long-term viability of the nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses. Land protected by agricultural land easements provides additional public benefits, including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat and protection of open space.

Wetland Reserve Easements provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity and provide opportunities for educational, scientific and limited recreational activities.

Helping People Help the Land

Agricultural Land Easements

NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. In the case of working farms, the program helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program also protects grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving grassland, including rangeland, pastureland and shrubland. Eligible partners include Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs.

Under the Agricultural Land component, NRCS may contribute up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. Where NRCS determines that grasslands of special environmental significance will be protected, NRCS may contribute up to 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.

Wetland Reserve Easements

NRCS also provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. For acreage owned by an Indian tribe, there is an additional enrollment option of a 30-year contract.

Through the wetland reserve enrollment options, NRCS may enroll eligible land through:

- *Permanent Easements* are conservation easements in perpetuity. NRCS pays 100 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 75 to 100 percent of the restoration costs.

- *30-Year Easements* expire after 30 years. Under 30-year easements, NRCS pays 50 to 75 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 50 to 75 percent of the restoration costs.

- *Term Easements* are easements that are for the maximum duration allowed under applicable state laws. NRCS pays 50 to 75 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the term easement and between 50 to 75 percent of the restoration costs.

- *30-year Contracts* are only available to enroll acreage owned by Indian tribes. Program payment rates are commensurate with 30-year easements.

For wetland reserve easements, NRCS pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

Eligibility

Land eligible for agricultural easements includes cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forest land. NRCS will prioritize applications that protect agricultural uses and related conservation values of the land and those that maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use.

Land eligible for wetland reserve easements includes farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. NRCS will prioritize applications based the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

To enroll land through agricultural land easements, NRCS enters into cooperative agreements with eligible partners. Each easement is required to have an agricultural land easement plan that promotes the long-term viability of the land.

To enroll land through wetland reserve easements, NRCS enters into purchase agreements with eligible private landowners or Indian tribes that include the right for NRCS to develop and implement a wetland reserve restoration easement plan. This plan restores, protects, and enhances the wetland's functions and values.

How to apply

- *Agricultural land easements* - eligble partners may submit

proposals to NRCS to acquire conservation easements on eligible land.

- *Wetland reserve easements* - landowners may apply at any time at a local USDA Service Center.

More Information

For more information visit your local USDA Service Center or the NRCS Farm Bill website at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

Find your local USDA Service Center

http://offices.usda.gov

What's New in ACEP

The ACEP is a new program that consolidates three former programs -- the Wetlands Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program, and Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program.

This wetland area is used as an outdoor classroom on the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, Washoe County, NV.

www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

March 2014

EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit agricultural producers and the environment.

Benefits

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years in duration.

Eligibility

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pasture-land, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.

Helping People Help the Land

Socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate and may receive advance payment of up to 50 percent to purchase materials and services needed to implement conservation practices included in their EQIP contract.

Applicants must:

- Control or own eligible land
- Comply with adjusted gross income limitation (AGI) provisions
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements
- Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations

Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply.

How to apply

Visit your local USDA Service Center to apply or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted.

NRCS will help eligible producers develop an EQIP plan of operations, which will become the basis of the EQIP contract.

EQIP applications will be ranked based on a number of factors, including the environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the proposal.

More Information

For more information visit your local USDA Service Center or www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

Find your local USDA Service Center

http://offices.usda.gov

What's New in EQIP

- The former Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program was folded into EQIP.
- Advance payment opportunities now exist for veteran agricultural producers.
- Advance payments for socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and veterans were raised from 30 percent to 50 percent.
- Payment limitations are set at $450,000 with no ability to waive.

This Pond provides water for livestock and wildlife.

www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

March 2014

CSP

Conservation Stewardship Program

Overview

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

Helping People Help the Land

Benefits

Through CSP, participants take additional steps to improve the resource conditions on their land—including soil, air and habitat quality, water quality and quantity, and energy conservation.

CSP provides two types of payments through five-year contracts: annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices; and supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation. Producers may be able to renew a contract if they have successfully fulfilled the initial contract and agree to achieve additional conservation objectives. Payments are made soon as practical after October 1 of each fiscal year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year.

Eligibility

Eligible lands include private and Tribal agricultural lands, cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland and nonindustrial private forest land. CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size or type of crops produced, in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Caribbean and Pacific Island areas. Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations or Indian tribes that meet the stewardship threshold for at least two priority resource concerns when they apply. They must also agree to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the contract.

Producers must have effective control of the land for the term of the proposed contract. Contracts include all eligible land in the agricultural operation.

Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply.

How to Apply

Visit your local USDA Service Center to apply or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted.

More Information

For For more information visit your local USDA Service Center or www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

Find Your Local USDA Service Center

http://offices.usda.gov

What's New in CSP

The 2014 Farm Bill increased the program's focus on generating additional conservation benefits, removed the limitation on the number of nonindustrial private forestland acres that can be enrolled in CSP, and increased flexibility to enroll land coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program.

Payment Limit: A person or legal entity may not receive more than $200,000 during fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

NRCS can help producers conserve water with efficient irrigation systems.

www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

March 2014

RCPP

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Overview

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

RCPP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program. Assistance is delivered in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, and ACEP; and in certain areas the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit agricultural producers and the environment.

Helping People Help the Land

Benefits

RCPP encourages partners to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales.

Through RCPP, NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved. The Secretary of Agriculture may also designate up to eight critical conservation areas to focus RCPP assistance.

Eligibility

Eligible Partners - Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers, state or local governments, American Indian

tribes, municipal water treatment entities, water and irrigation districts, conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations and institutions of higher education.

Eligible Participants - Under RCPP, eligible producers and landowners of agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland may enter into conservation program contracts or easement agreements under the framework of a partnership agreement. RCPP assistance is also available independent of a partner if the land is located either in a partner project area or in a critical conservation area designated by the Secretary. Conservation program contracts and easement agreements are implemented through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) or the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP). NRCS may also utilize the authorities under the Watershed and Flood Prevention Program, other than the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, in the designated critical conservation areas.

How to apply

NRCS will announce a request for proposals that will outline requirements for proposal submissions for funding. NRCS will review partnership proposals according to the priorities identified in the announcement and make project selections. Upon selection of a partnership proposal, NRCS and the partner will enter into a partnership agreement through which they will coordinate to provide producers in the project area assistance. Partnership agreements may be for a period of up to five years. NRCS may extend an agreement one time for an additional 12 months if needed to meet the objectives of the program.

Producers may apply for RCPP assistance in several ways:

1. At the producer's request, a partner may submit the application for participation in a selected project area
2. Directly at their local USDA Service Center in a selected project area
3. Directly at their local USDA Service center in a critical conservation area designated by the Secretary of Agriculture

Partnership Agreement

The partnership agreement defines the scope of the project, including:

1. Eligible activities to be implemented
2. Potential agricultural or nonindustrial private forest operation affected
3. Local, state, multi-state or other geographic area covered
4. Planning, outreach, implementation, and assessment to be conducted

Partners are responsible for contributing to the cost of the project, conducting outreach and education to eligible producers for potential participation in the project and for conducting an assessment of the project's effects. In addition, partners may act on behalf of the eligible landowner or producer in applying for assistance and for leveraging financial or technical assistance provided by NRCS with additional funds to help achieve the project objectives.

Before closing the agreement the partner must provide an assessment of the project costs and conservation effects.

More Information

For more information visit your local USDA Service Center or www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

Find Your Local USDA Service Center

http://offices.usda.gov

What's new?

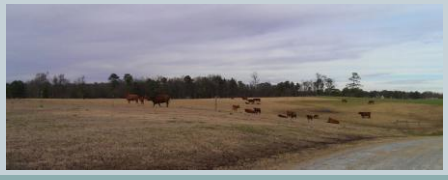
RCPP is a new partnership program that combines the authorities of four former programs - Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program, and delivers assistance through covered programs, including EQIP, CSP, and ACEP, and Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations in Critical Conservation Areas.

www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Program Updates

Soil and Water Conservation Commission
March 19, 2014



Topics

- Nutrient Criteria Development Plan
- Waters of the US – Proposed Rules

Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

- Plans mandated by EPA
- Previous plan 2004
- Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW) designation based on chlorophyll-a
  - Neuse
  - Tar-Pam
  - Jordan Lake
  - Falls Lake

Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

- Chlorophyll-a standard
  - Focuses on uses of waterbodies – recreation, drinking water, etc.
  - Allows site specific strategies
  - Reductions from various sectors where needed
  - Allows for more cost-effective solutions
- Push by EPA for N and P thresholds
- 2010 Nutrient Forum

Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

Other Nutrient Control Efforts

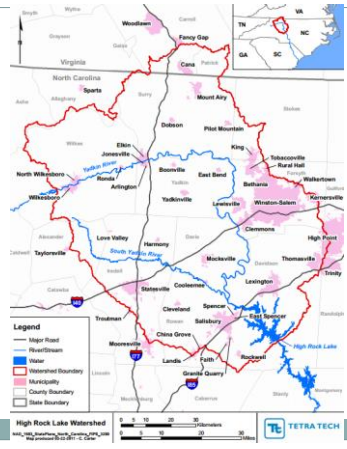
- Preventive rules
  - Stormwater management
  - Animal operations
  - Wastewater treatment facilities
- Ambient monitoring
- Water supply protections
- Coastal stormwater

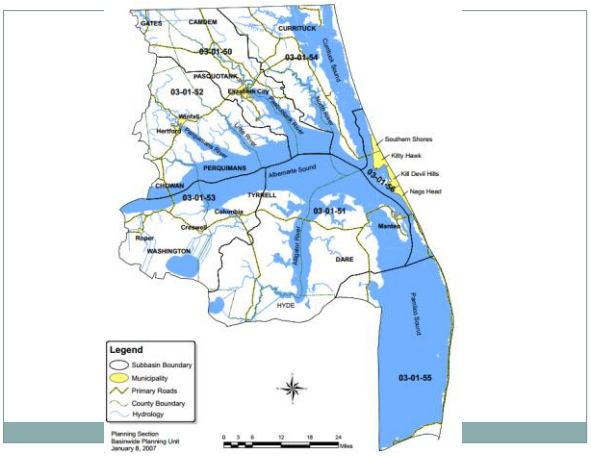
Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

- DENR's plan – first draft
  - August 2013
  - Opposed by SWCC
  - Concerns about flexibility in the approach
  - Concerns about opportunity for stakeholder involvement

Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

- DENR's plan – 2nd draft
- Emphasis on stakeholder involvement
- Emphasis on science-based approaches
  - Scientific Advisory Council
- Three watersheds for Nutrient Criteria development
  - High Rock Lake (ongoing)
  - Middle Cape Fear River
  - Albemarle Sound
- Existing Nutrient Strategies unaffected





Nutrient Criteria Development Plan

- Questions
- Future Impairment designations?
- Albemarle Sound?
- High Rock Lake – existing TAC vs. new SAC?
- Will this plan ultimately satisfy EPA?

EPA – Waters of the US

- Clean Water Act
- EPA authorized to regulate “Waters of the US”
- NC can regulate to a higher standard
  - Isolated wetlands
  - Intermittent streams

EPA – Waters of the US

Regulatory Summary

	Federally Regulated?	State Regulated?
Ephemeral Streams	No	No
Intermittent Streams	Yes*	Yes
Perennial Streams	Yes	Yes
Isolated Wetlands	No	Yes
404 Wetlands	Yes	Yes
Coastal Wetlands	Yes	Yes

EPA – Waters of the US

- Science Advisory Board
- EPA Draft report – Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands
  - Basis for the proposed rule
  - SAB meeting in December 2013
  - Leaked rule prior to the SAB meeting
  - SAB comments back to EPA

EPA – Waters of the US

- Proposed rule – worst case:
- Intermittent streams
- Isolated wetlands
- Ephemeral streams, including flowing ditches
  - Roadside
  - Irrigation/Groundwater lowering
  - Stormwater
- "Connectivity" criteria used to determine jurisdiction

EPA – Waters of the US

- Proposed rule – worst case:
- Existing agriculture exemptions remain
  - Prior converted cropland
  - Agricultural stormwater
  - Groundwater drained through subsurface drainage

EPA – Waters of the US

- Proposed rule – best case:
- Intermittent streams
- Isolated wetlands – if connectivity can be documented

	Federally Regulated?	State Regulated?
Ephemeral Streams	No	No
Intermittent Streams	Yes	Yes
Perennial Streams	Yes	Yes
Isolated Wetlands	Yes	Yes
404 Wetlands	Yes	Yes
Coastal Wetlands	Yes	Yes

EPA – Waters of the US

- Significant national interest from all sectors
- Proposed rule not yet released
- Concerns with leaked version
  - Developed prior to SAB review of report
- Final version likely in 2016

Thank You!

Questions?

Keith Larick
(919) 707-3070
keith.larick@ncagr.gov

REPORT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION AND FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON WATER QUALITY ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM PROGRAM YEAR 2013

INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) was authorized by the General Assembly in 1983 to improve water quality associated with agriculture in three nutrient sensitive watersheds covering 16 counties. In 1990, the program was expanded to include 96 soil and water conservation districts (districts) covering all 100 counties across the state.

While the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (commission) has the statutory responsibility to create, implement and supervise the ASCP, it is delivered at the local level by 492 elected and appointed district supervisors who are assisted by their staff and partners in natural resource conservation. These partners include technical and professional employees of the soil and water conservation district or county, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Division of Soil and Water Conservation (division), the Cooperative Extension Service, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The commission continues to adapt the program to respond to changing needs and technology. There were 71 approved best management practices (BMPs) in the ACSP for program year 2013. BMPs include both short-term and long-term practices. For a BMP to be approved by the commission, a NRCS technical standard addressing the water quality problem must exist, or the commission must adopt standards for the practice. Sufficient cost information must also be available to determine the appropriate cost share amount. Occasionally, BMPs are approved on a limited scale for evaluation purposes. These are referred to as district BMPs. The definitions of approved BMPs for the ACSP are provided in the Detailed Implementation Plan (Attachment A).

For most practices, the amount provided in cost share is based on 75 percent of a predetermined average cost for the practice up to a maximum of $75,000 per cooperating farmer per year. However, some practices are cost shared on 75 percent of actual cost due to the variable nature of the practice. Farmers who qualify as beginning farmers or limited resource farmers, and farmers participating in an enhanced voluntary agricultural district are eligible to receive up to 90 percent cost share up to a maximum of $100,000 per year.

The commission conducts a wholesale review of its cost share average costs every three years, but it makes necessary corrections when presented with information that one of its predetermined costs is inaccurate.

Districts spot check a minimum of 5 percent of randomly selected active contracts each year to ensure that practices are being maintained properly. The division and NRCS also spot check contracts as part of regular reviews of district office implementation of the ACSP. Spot checks for 2013 showed excellent compliance with maintenance requirements by participating farmers. Only 1.6 percent of contracts were out of compliance. When practices are discovered to need additional maintenance, the district is usually able to assist the cooperator to restore the practice to its intended function.

Table 1: Number of site visits conducted during program year 2013

County	Number of Participating Supervisors	ACSP Contracts Spotchecked	ACSP Active Contracts	% of ACSP Contracts Spotchecked	ACSP Contracts in Compliance	ACSP Out of Compliance	ACSP Contracts Needing Maintenance
Alamance	4	20	286	7%	19	0	1
Alexander	2	15	73	21%	13	0	2
Alleghany	3	13	126	10%	12	0	1
Anson	2	11	38	29%	10	1	0
Ashe	5	5	104	5%	5	0	0
Avery	1	5	108	5%	5	0	0
Beaufort	5	5	39	13%	5	0	0
Bertie	1	9	139	6%	9	0	0
Bladen	1	10	88	11%	10	0	0
Brunswick	2	3	49	6%	3	0	0
Buncombe	3	7	109	6%	7	0	0
Burke	2	6	68	9%	5	0	1
Cabarrus	2	9	71	13%	9	0	0
Caldwell	4	8	67	12%	6	0	2
Camden	3	5	12	42%	5	0	0
Carteret	3	1	1	100%	1	0	0
Caswell	1	16	300	5%	16	0	0
Catawba	3	5	89	6%	5	0	0
Chatham	5	32	119	27%	28	2	2
Cherokee	4	12	191	6%	12	0	0
Chowan	3	5	74	7%	5	0	0
Clay	4	5	80	6%	4	0	0
Cleveland	3	4	59	7%	3	0	1
Columbus	2	9	132	7%	9	0	0
Craven	1	6	49	12%	4	1	1
Cumberland	2	7	68	10%	7	0	0
Currituck	3	2	4	50%	2	0	0
Dare	2	1	2	50%	1	0	0

Davidson	2	20	76	26%	19	1	0
Davie	2	17	70	24%	16	0	1
Duplin	2	19	172	11%	18	0	1
Durham	4	6	60	10%	6	0	0
Edgecombe	3	10	158	6%	10	0	0
Forsyth	3	5	85	6%	5	0	0
Franklin	2	12	105	11%	12	0	0
Gaston	2	3	71	4%	3	0	0
Gates	5	8	105	8%	8	0	0
Graham	2	5	41	12%	5	0	0
Granville	2	12	229	5%	12	0	0
Greene	2	9	83	11%	9	0	0
Guilford	4	22	149	15%	21	0	1
Halifax	2	10	69	14%	10	0	0
Harnett	5	14	280	5%	11	0	3
Haywood	2	6	115	5%	6	0	0
Henderson	1	8	109	7%	7	0	1
Hertford	1	5	104	5%	4	0	1
Hoke	3	7	48	15%	7	0	0
Hyde	3	9	70	13%	5	0	0
Iredell	1	4	62	6%	3	0	1
Jackson	2	4	67	6%	4	0	0
Johnston	3	24	210	11%	22	0	2
Jones	2	12	70	17%	11	0	1
Lee	2	5	100	5%	2	3	0
Lenoir	3	19	169	11%	18	0	1
Lincoln	1	7	98	7%	5	1	1
Macon	1	3	65	5%	3	0	0
Madison	2	5	95	5%	5	0	0
Martin	4	9	138	7%	9	0	0
McDowell	2	3	3	100%	3	0	0
Mecklenburg	2	2	8	25%	1	0	1
Mitchell	2	13	125	10%	13	0	0
Montgomery	2	17	55	31%	17	0	0
Moore	3	17	39	44%	17	0	0
Nash	6	5	94	5%	5	0	0
New Hanover	2	1	4	25%	1	0	0
Northampton	2	16	279	6%	10	0	6
Onslow	3	9	9	100%	8	0	1
Orange	1	16	149	11%	16	0	0
Pamlico	1	4	44	9%	4	0	0
Pasquotank	3	3	31	10%	31	0	0
Pender	3	6	112	5%	5	0	1
Perquimans	3	7	40	18%	7	0	0
Person	1	10	199	5%	7	0	3

Pitt	2	18	359	5%	18	0	0
Polk	2	5	44	11%	5	0	0
Randolph	2	11	75	15%	11	0	0
Richmond	1	12	55	22%	10	2	0
Robeson	3	5	100	5%	5	0	0
Rockingham	2	9	173	5%	7	2	0
Rowan	1	9	95	9%	8	0	1
Rutherford	2	9	152	6%	5	0	4
Sampson	4	22	195	11%	17	1	4
Scotland	1	5	41	12%	5	0	0
Stanly	2	8	113	7%	8	0	0
Stokes	4	8	124	6%	8	0	0
Surry	3	14	202	7%	12	1	1
Swain	4	4	33	12%	4	0	0
Transylvania	1	3	60	5%	3	0	0
Tyrrell	1	2	27	7%	2	0	0
Union	1	12	54	22%	12	0	0
Vance	2	5	102	5%	5	0	0
Wake	5	8	148	5%	7	0	1
Warren	2	11	166	7%	9	0	2
Washington	2	6	50	12%	6	0	0
Watauga	1	9	85	11%	9	0	0
Wayne	2	11	163	7%	11	0	0
Wilkes	3	22	80	28%	22	0	0
Wilson	4	5	109	5%	5	0	0
Yadkin	2	18	134	13%	18	0	0
Yancey	2	14	127	11%	13	0	1
Total	246	929	10,075	9%	886	15	51

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the first ACSP contracts were issued in 1984 through the end of program year 2013, 56,960 contracts have been approved for installing BMPs affecting over 2.8 million acres. Most BMPs have a life expectancy of ten years, which is how long participating farmers must agree to maintain the practices.

Early in the program, the major factor used for determining success was tons of soil saved because the program funded predominantly sediment and erosion control practices. It is estimated that best management practices installed through the ACSP since its inception are saving over 7.6 million tons of soil annually. Since the mid-1990s, while continuing its attention on minimizing soil loss and erosion, the program has increased its attention on reducing and managing nutrients from cropland and livestock production. Part of the impetus for this new attention was the promulgation of the 15A NCAC 2H.0200 (now 15A NCAC 2T) animal waste management rules and the nutrient sensitive waters strategies for the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins as well as Jordan and Falls Lakes.

Highlights of additional accomplishments include the following:

- ☐ 199,632 acres of marginal or environmentally sensitive cropland have been converted to trees, grass or wildlife habitat areas.
- ☐ 4,002 waste management practices have been installed to properly store and manage dry and wet animal waste.
- ☐ 942 mortality management systems have been installed to properly manage livestock mortalities to minimize water quality impacts.
- ☐ 4,124 water control structures have been installed improving water management on and reducing nutrient loss from approximately 319,308 acres.
- ☐ 1,225 miles of fencing have been erected, in combination with other practices (e.g., watering sources) to exclude livestock from streams.
- ☐ 653,390 acres of cropland have been converted to no-till or conservation tillage to reduce sediment loss associated with traditional practices.
- ☐ 17,008 acres of forested riparian buffer have been established to reduce nutrient loss from approximately 68,027 acres of cropland.
- ☐ 143 chemical handling and management structures have been installed to provide an environmentally safe means for mixing and storing agricultural chemicals.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Projects Receiving State Funds

Participating farmers have up to three years to complete the work included in ACSP contracts. Therefore, cost share payments made each year may be for contracts written in the current program year or in the two previous program years. For this reason the fund balance for the program will always exceed the amount appropriated in a given year.

Each contract is considered a "project." Each project may include only one BMP or a system of practices that include several BMPs. Cost share payments are made only when installation of a BMP is completed and certified to be in accordance with current NRCS or commission standards.

ACSP payments were applied to 812 projects statewide between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. These contracts received total payments of $3,986,600. A list of individual contracts to which agriculture cost share funds were applied in program year 2013 is available upon request.

New Contracts for Program Year 2013

In program year 2013, districts requested $ 20,472,474 to address identified water quality concerns. The General Assembly appropriated $ 4,464,413 in recurring general funds for BMP installation. Current appropriations do not enable districts to meet demand for financial assistance for installing BMPs to protect water quality in North Carolina.

In total, the commission allocated $ 5,081,963 to districts. In addition to the 2013 appropriation, the commission also had available for allocation (1) funds allocated to districts in 2012 with which districts were unable to execute contracts with farmers prior to the end of the program year and (2) funds

recovered from completed and expired contracts from program years 2010 through 2012. Despite the commission's actions to improve efficiency of the ACSP, districts still must turn away two out of every three farmers requesting cost share assistance.

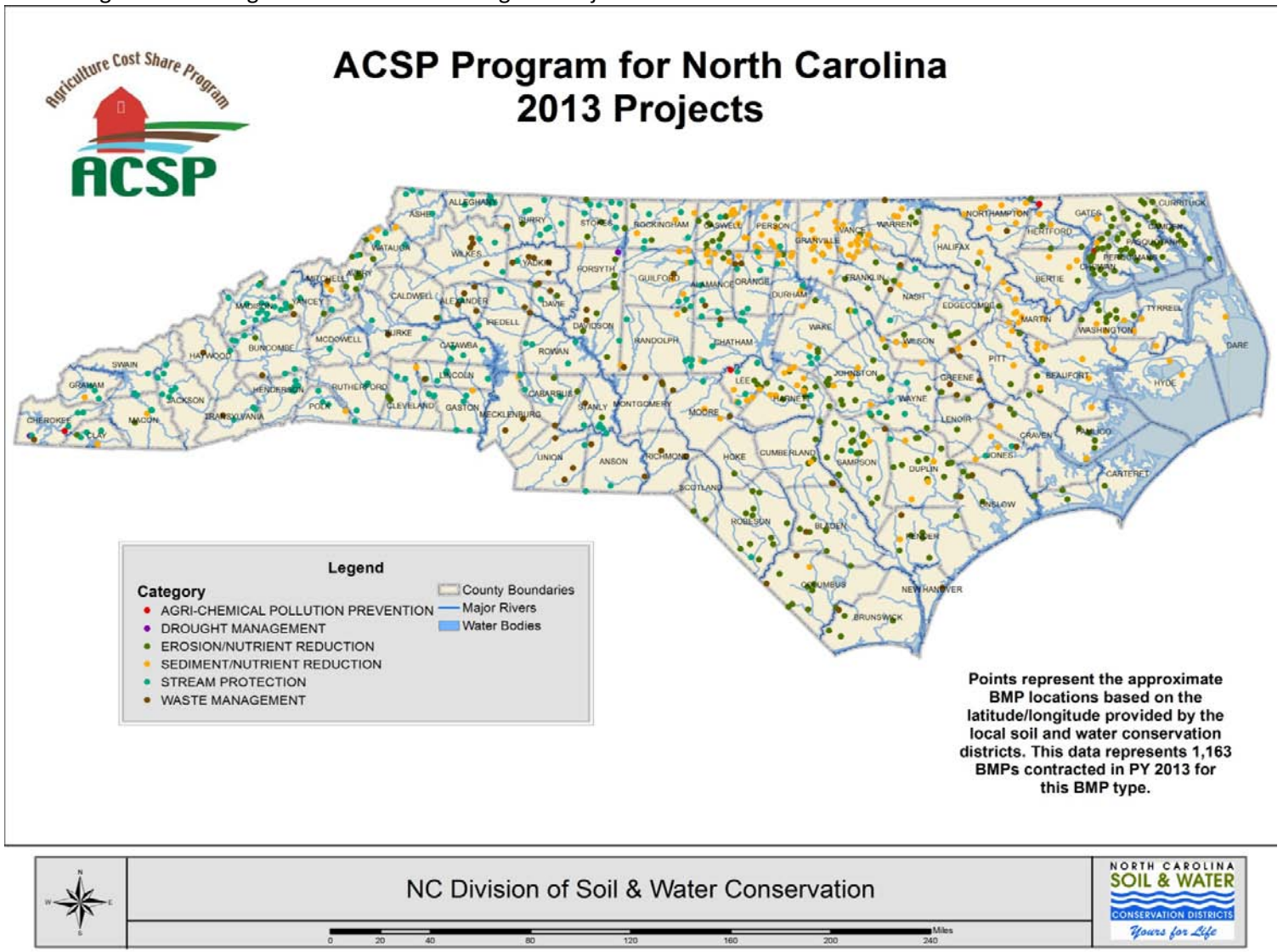
Districts obligated $ 4,819,171 of state appropriated cost share funds to 744 new contracts with farmers in program year 2013. In addition, the ACSP infrastructure was used to implement conservation practices using several other funding sources, including the Agricultural Drought Response Project, numerous grants, and an agreement with the Ecosystem Enhancement Program. In all, districts obligated $ 6,213,499 to 825 contracts. Table 2 presents the total number and value of 2013 contracts for each county. Figure 1 shows the distribution of ACSP projects within each county. Maps by BMP category can be found in Attachment E.

Table 2: Total number and value of 2013 contracts by county

County	Number of 2013 Contracts	Amount Contracted (Cost Share)	Total Amount Contracted	County	Number of 2013 Contracts	Amount Contracted (Cost Share)	Total Amount Contracted
Alamance	14	$49,080	$133,232	Jones	7	$48,707	$54,396
Alexander	5	$64,116	$95,967	Lee	15	$50,597	$50,597
Alleghany	11	$54,654	$75,094	Lenoir	5	$35,142	$35,142
Anson	4	$57,170	$63,227	Lincoln	7	$54,464	$77,297
Ashe	5	$54,922	$62,478	Macon	4	$32,483	$32,483
Avery	11	$52,462	$52,462	Madison	15	$55,589	$75,874
Beaufort	12	$57,591	$63,256	Martin	9	$23,557	$27,818
Bertie	9	$37,721	$37,721	McDowell	2	$10,588	$15,581
Bladen	11	$46,485	$46,485	Mecklenburg	2	$25,020	$33,226
Brunswick	5	$41,355	$41,355	Mitchell	4	$55,961	$76,924
Buncombe	10	$60,702	$83,443	Montgomery	3	$44,682	$44,682
Burke	6	$32,305	$32,305	Moore	5	$51,462	$56,525
Cabarrus	8	$46,285	$47,871	Nash	8	$52,083	$53,059
Caldwell	4	$40,959	$45,643	New Hanover	0	$0	$0
Camden	11	$37,122	$37,122	Northampton	14	$44,076	$44,076
Carteret	4	$13,856	$13,856	Onslow	6	$32,840	$32,840
Caswell	21	$54,196	$76,665	Orange	10	$61,860	$108,233
Catawba	7	$41,815	$46,984	Pamlico	6	$47,812	$47,812
Chatham	11	$64,844	$111,792	Pasquotank	13	$48,989	$58,985
Cherokee	9	$22,667	$32,350	Pender	9	$44,424	$48,554
Chowan	12	$39,456	$52,467	Perquimans	15	$41,808	$53,885
Clay	5	$29,984	$39,734	Person	11	$45,679	$46,286
Cleveland	7	$43,002	$43,002	Pitt	9	$44,764	$53,646
Columbus	12	$47,432	$82,632	Polk	4	$39,840	$39,840
Craven	5	$43,311	$47,378	Randolph	8	$65,931	$78,604
Cumberland	7	$23,737	$26,622	Richmond	4	$35,496	$51,284
Currituck	3	$19,999	$19,999	Robeson	14	$71,425	$71,425

County	Number of 2013 Contracts	Amount Contracted (Cost Share)	Total Amount Contracted	County	Number of 2013 Contracts	Amount Contracted (Cost Share)	Total Amount Contracted
Dare	0	$0	$0	Rockingham	14	$44,139	$115,149
Davidson	7	$49,831	$58,000	Rowan	4	$53,311	$53,311
Davie	5	$49,116	$49,116	Rutherford	8	$46,021	$46,021
Duplin	22	$85,038	$96,550	Sampson	19	$58,804	$58,804
Durham	11	$43,289	$66,266	Scotland	3	$19,921	$19,921
Edgecombe	6	$42,754	$42,754	Stanly	7	$53,808	$59,987
Forsyth	5	$35,086	$51,042	Stokes	15	$36,075	$91,349
Franklin	10	$59,439	$72,807	Surry	9	$73,903	$113,600
Gaston	7	$46,642	$52,090	Swain	5	$29,203	$29,203
Gates	7	$26,356	$29,417	Transylvania	4	$39,388	$39,388
Graham	5	$23,600	$26,677	Tyrrell	2	$42,849	$42,849
Granville	17	$52,410	$52,410	Union	7	$56,000	$56,000
Greene	5	$47,090	$47,090	Vance	13	$42,168	$42,168
Guilford	11	$53,012	$150,737	Wake	13	$58,519	$80,023
Halifax	5	$46,303	$46,303	Warren	12	$47,546	$56,746
Harnett	21	$38,346	$38,346	Washington	14	$47,439	$47,439
Haywood	5	$48,584	$48,584	Watauga	8	$46,048	$61,151
Henderson	7	$62,752	$68,905	Wayne	11	$49,113	$63,232
Hertford	6	$36,963	$36,963	Wilkes	7	$60,528	$137,343
Hoke	2	$31,133	$31,133	Wilson	9	$34,644	$39,342
Hyde	6	$37,350	$37,350	Yadkin	7	$59,463	$71,512
Iredell	6	$44,768	$44,768	Yancey	11	$50,030	$67,583
Jackson	7	$37,678	$37,678				
Johnson	21	$64,239	$70,426	**Total**		$4,819,171	$6,213,499

Figure 1: 2013 Agriculture Cost Share Program Projects



Estimated Water Quality Benefits of ACSP Contracts Initiated in 2013

N.C.G.S 143-215.74(b)(7) requires that each project's benefits to water quality be estimated before funding is awarded. To meet this requirement, the commission chose three indicators of water quality benefits: (1) tons of soil saved, (2) pounds of nitrogen saved or managed, and (3) pounds of phosphorus saved or managed.

Soil savings estimates have been required on all ASCP contracts since the start of the program. Beginning with the 1997 program year, estimates of nitrogen and phosphorus savings were required. The division continues to work with the Division of Water Resources, NRCS, and North Carolina State University to improve and refine the methods used to estimate and account for nutrient reductions.

These estimates have allowed the division to track progress made by agriculture relative to the nutrient reduction requirements in the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Jordan Lake and Falls Lake nutrient reduction strategies for agriculture. The ACSP is playing a key role in helping farmers achieve and maintain the nutrient reductions required by these rules.

Local districts determine which projects are eligible for funding in their areas according to a required priority ranking process. The priority ranking is tailored to each district's water quality concerns. The water quality evaluations on each project are carried out at the district level, and the water quality benefit estimates are provided to the division on each contract and in the online contracting system.

Between 1984 and 2012 it is estimated that an average of 6.62 million tons of soil have been saved annually during the life of the program. Also the program has reduced nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agricultural land by 18 million and 5.3 million lb/year, respectively. In 2013 the division is in the process of a database conversion and specific information for program year 2013 can be provided upon request.

The division does not have a good tool for estimating the benefits for many of the drought response BMPs, such as livestock watering wells. Still, these practices are known to improve water quality by reducing livestock dependence upon streams for watering. The Technical Review Committee for the program has formed a workgroup to develop better accounting tools for these practices. Another factor impacting benefits is the reduced total number of contracts per year. Fewer contracts are due to the reduced funding for the program and the increase in costs for materials and practices over time.

Some BMPs standing alone will not directly result in sediment or erosion reductions or nitrogen or phosphorus savings, but are used in conjunction with other practices. These BMPs are called "facilitating practices" and are necessary to facilitate and ensure that other practices in the BMP system are effective at reducing nutrient or sediment loading to a water resource. Therefore, their reduction credit is linked to the facilitated practice. An example of a facilitating practice is a water tank, which must be installed for livestock drinking water purposes before fencing can be put up to keep livestock out of a stream.

Effectiveness of Each Project to Accomplish Its Primary Purpose

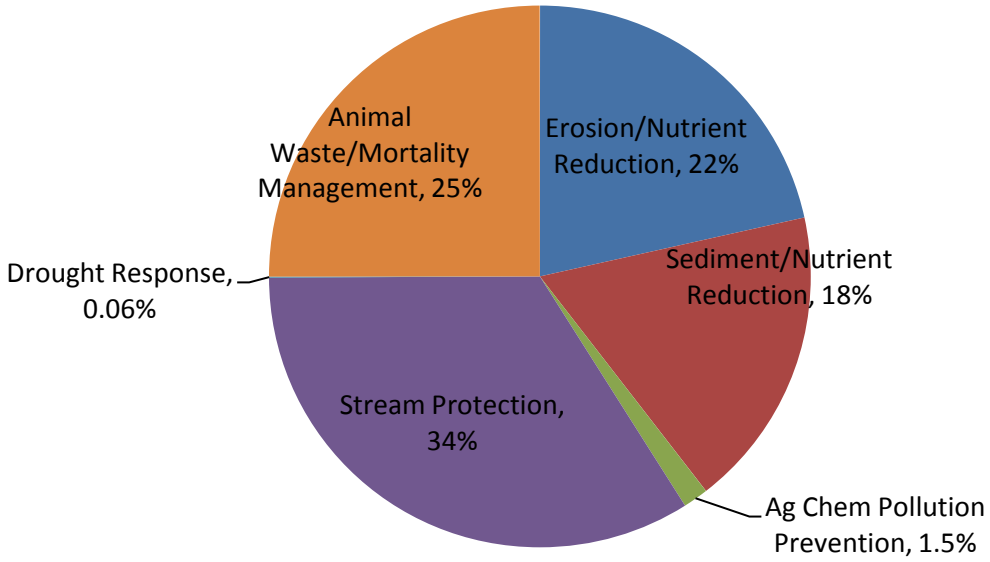
The statutory purpose of the program and each project is to improve water quality by reducing the input of agricultural non-point source pollution into the water courses of the state. Each BMP approved for the ACSP is designed for at least one of five major purposes to protect the water resources of the state:

(1) sediment/nutrient delivery reduction through reduction of applied nutrients, reduction of soil loss, or interception of nutrients from fields;

(2) erosion reduction/nutrient loss reduction in fields through reduction of applied nutrients or prevention of soil detachment;
(3) prevention of agricultural chemical pollution of ground or surface water from improper handling or accidents;
(4) reduction of nutrient loading through proper management of animal waste;
(5) stream protection measures to reduce the delivery of sediment and nutrients by animals and stabilize streambanks to minimize further erosion and sediment contribution.

As shown in Figure 2, 29 percent of the 2013 funds from all funding sources were directed toward erosion and nutrient-reducing BMPs (e.g., conservation tillage, cropland conversion to grass or trees); 18 percent were directed toward sediment and nutrient-reducing BMPs (e.g., riparian buffers, field borders, grassed waterways); 34 percent were directed toward stream protection systems (e.g., livestock exclusion); 25 percent were directed toward animal operations for waste and mortality management BMPs (e.g., poultry litter storage structures, closure of inactive lagoons, livestock feeding/waste storage structures); 1.5 percent was directed toward agrichemical pollution prevention measures (e.g. agrichemical handling facilities), and less than 1 percent was directed toward drought response BMPs (e.g. pasture renovation, wells, conservation irrigation systems). Attachment C includes charts showing the approved BMPs in these categories and their relationship to water quality improvement.

Figure 2: 2013 ACSP Contracts by Category



Projects for which program funds have been expended are verified by staff to ensure that the practices are installed in accordance with program standards and that is it accomplishing its primary purpose.

TARGETING ACSP FUNDS TO WATERSHEDS OF IMPAIRED WATERS

The commission continues to exercise leadership in allocating ACSP resources to local districts containing impaired waters. This is best illustrated by the fact that the commission targeted $399,987 of funds available in 2013 for the specific purpose of installing BMPs into watersheds listed on the State's 303(d) list of impaired waters due to agricultural nonpoint source pollution. Agriculture was identified as a potential source of pollutants to impaired waters in 94 counties. This allocation was limited to 30 districts that have completed Impacted/Impaired Streams Initiative surveys to identify specific project locations to address the potential sources of the impairment.

In 2013, about 12.7 percent of ACSP funds were used to implement BMPs in watersheds of impaired waters. Considering that only 2.4 percent of North Carolina's stream miles are attributed to being impaired by agricultural sources, this demonstrates that the ACSP funds are being significantly targeted toward improving streams that do not fully meet their uses.

Approximately 20 percent of funds contracted in program year 2013 were contracted with farmers in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins to help them achieve and maintain the required 30 percent reduction in agricultural nitrogen losses. Districts in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Basins will continue to use ACSP to sustain the reductions already achieved and to attain further voluntary reductions in these nutrient sensitive watersheds. ACSP funds are also being used to reduce phosphorus losses from agriculture to help achieve the goal of no net increase in phosphorus loading to the Tar-Pamlico Basin. Participating farmers continue to assess phosphorus losses using the Phosphorus Loss Assessment Tool (PLAT). The Commission also targeted $300,000 of program year 2013 funds to districts to assist with implementation of riparian buffers under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Incorporating Information from the Basinwide Water Quality Plans Published by the Division of Water Resources (DWR)
In 2005, the commission established a policy relating District Strategy Plans to the DWR's Basinwide Water Quality Plans which requires that all strategy plans for ACSP include a section describing waters listed as impaired or with notable water quality problems and concerns as documented in the most recent basinwide water quality plan(s), and for which agriculture is a potential source or stressor. The district should also list any waters of local concern for which agriculture has been identified as a potential source or stressor. This section of the strategy plan should also describe how the district intends to address agricultural nonpoint source problems impacting these waters.

All districts completed this section of the strategy plan and documented the impaired waters in their county and the actions the district plans to take to address the problems impacting these waters.

NEW PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND PROGRAM DELIVERY

ACSP is focused on continually improving the program's cost effectiveness due to recurring budget reductions in state appropriations. The commission is moving forward on enhancements for the 2013-2014 program year. These enhancements are designed to improve the efficiency by which program funds are used by agricultural cooperators to install BMPs and to improve the responsiveness of the program to state and local water quality priorities.

Database Development
In June of 2012 the division finished an upgrade to the legacy ACSP database. The division worked with the DENR Information Technology Services (ITS) and the NCDA&CS ITS to implement the new ACSP database and online contracting system. The upgraded system utilizes the DENR-Integrated Build Environment for Application Management (IBEAM) approach to permit more efficient on-line contracting and contract approval to eliminate duplicative data entry and to shorten contract review and approval time. The upgrade includes mechanisms to attach GPS and GIS information

and digital photographs to better present the benefits and outcomes associated with BMP implementation. It also provides real-time ACSP information that can easily be updated by the division and local district staff, with minimal errors and will be used to generate standard reports on program use and water quality benefits. The online contracting system was fully utilized in program year 2013. In June of 2013, NCDA&CS ITS as well as division staff began working on a conversion from the DENR-IBEAM system to the NCDA&CS Soil and Water Cost Share Contracting System (CS^2). The new CS^2 system will allow for better contract and payment functionality as well as an increased level of system support.

Program Changes

For program year 2013 the Commission has made several changes to the program including:

1. Approving the following changes to existing practices:
    a. Cover Crop- clarified planting and kill dates for the cover crop to match federal policy.
    b. Nutrient Scavenger Crop- clarified adjusted planting and kill dates to match research data.
    c. Waste Application Systems- extended BMP to waste compost spreaders.
    d. Well- Clarified the use of alternative casing when required by 15A NCAC Subchapter 02C Well Construction Standards, as well as job approval authority.

2. Adopting the following new practices:

    a. Agricultural temporary water collection pond means to construct an agricultural water collection system for water reuse or irrigation to improve water quality. These systems may include construction of new ponds, utilizing existing ponds, water storage tanks and pumps in order to intercept sediment, nutrients, manage chlorophyll a. These systems may have the added benefit of reducing the demand on the water supply, and decreasing withdrawal from aquifers but these benefits shall not be the justification for this practice.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS CONSIDERATIONS

The ACSP is a cost-effective program from both a state expenditure perspective and the farmer's perspective. This program has been credited with helping the state to achieve considerable success in protecting and improving water quality. Many farmers could not afford to implement BMPs (many of which are required by regulations) without cost share assistance. Because a farmer must invest at least 25 percent of the cost for BMPs, the farmer has ownership in the practice and is more likely to maintain it. The educational value of local farmers participating in the program is substantial in helping to change local practices.

Leveraging Additional BMP Implementation Funds from Other Sources

In addition to the appropriated funds for the Agriculture Cost Share Program, the division and districts used the Agriculture Cost Share Program infrastructure to encumber over $1.5 million in grant funds from other funding sources to conservation contracts with NC agricultural producers and landowners. These funding sources included:

- Clean Water Management Trust Fund (grant funds to support implementing water quality best management practices in the French Broad and Yadkin River Basins and in support of the Swine Buyout Program);
- NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program (receipted funds to use the ACSP infrastructure to install BMPs adjacent to stream and wetland restoration projects);
- US EPA Section 319 (grant funds to support implementing water quality best management practices in the Dan River Watershed and Jordan Lake Watershed);
- Three separate USDA Conservation Innovation Grants for installing innovative best management practices for aquaculture operations, installing innovative mortality management practices for livestock operations, and installing innovative controlled drainage structures on crop production operations.

ACSP funds are an essential part of the state match for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), a federal/state partnership. ACSP and other state programs (CWMTF) are providing a total of $54 million over eight years to match $221 million in federal payments to North Carolina landowners participating in CREP.

ACSP funds for BMP implementation and technical assistance also provide the required state match for EPA-319 grants for accelerating BMP implementation in the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico River Basins, and Jordan Lake Watershed.

Whenever possible, the districts use the ACSP in conjunction with other programs, such as the federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), to stretch scarce resources as far as possible. Districts also partner to meet the needs of cooperating producers and landowners.

Leveraging of Local and Federal Resources for Technical Assistance and Local Delivery

The ACSP is delivered locally by 492 elected and appointed volunteer district supervisors and by over 440 local staff of districts and NRCS. District supervisors receive no state salary, yet are responsible for seeing that state funds are spent where they are most needed to improve water quality. District supervisors are required to develop a prioritization ranking system for administering the ACSP in their respective district to maximize the water quality benefits of the program. Applications to each district are evaluated and prioritized according to this system. District supervisors also must inspect at least five percent of all cost share contracts in their district every year to ensure the BMPs are properly maintained.

The ACSP is heavily dependent on the technical resources of the local districts and the NRCS. District and federal employees develop conservation plans, design BMPs, and provide engineering assistance for water quality improvements at no cost to the farmers whose applications are accepted for cost share assistance. The staff also assists farmers and other landowners in implementing water quality projects using other funding sources such as EQIP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program, and North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

A critical portion of the General Assembly's appropriation for ACSP provides a state match for salaries for many of these district technical employees and for their operating expenses to carry out the cost share program. For 2013, the General Assembly appropriated $2,448,778 in recurring funds for cost sharing technical assistance positions in local districts. County commissions provide more than 50 percent match for salaries and operating expenses, including office space and administrative support for these technical assistance positions. In program year 2013, the cost share technical assistance program cost shared on 110 technical positions in 95 districts to assist farmers in designing and installing BMPs. These state technical assistance cost share funds maintain a local conservation infrastructure that is also used to deliver federal cost share funds to NC landowners and land users. In 2013, local districts cooperated with the NRCS to deliver $30.4 million of conservation assistance. Technical assistance funds are critical to sustain local county support and funding for local delivery of the program.

NRCS engineers and conservation specialists are also available to each district. These federal employees carry out a portion of the cost share work support without cost to the state, and they provide additional technical resources and expertise to ensure that cost-shared practices are properly installed and maintained for the expected life of the practice.

In addition, NRCS allows district staff in some districts to use federal vehicles for use on state cost share work. NRCS also provides computers and sophisticated natural resources materials and computer software in field offices, and develops the technical standards for most of the BMPs used in the cost share program. This state program leverages a much greater amount of federal funding for water quality improvements in North Carolina.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Attachment D is an overview of the funding and compliance process used for implementing the ACSP.

A division staff of five full time employees reviews approximately 900 contracts annually and processes about 1,500 requests for payment each year. The division also trains local personnel, provides daily technical assistance to the districts, maintains the ACSP Manual, and conducts oversight through district program reviews to ensure proper record keeping and BMP maintenance for continued water quality protection.

Because the state specifies that the purpose of the program is to assist agricultural operations in addressing an existing water quality problem, the program does not assist new operations to go into business. It is the policy of the commission that new producers or companies constructing new agricultural operations should be aware of the existing environmental requirements and technical standards and should be prepared to meet them without state funding assistance. This is especially important when existing operations are struggling to comply with new requirements that were not in place when they began operating. Therefore, the commission has restricted eligibility for ACSP funds to those operations, which have been in existence for three years prior to the date of cost share application. Operations that were not in existence for three years prior to application date may still be eligible for cost-share if changes in environmental statutes or regulations create new requirements that could, without assistance, make the facility out of compliance. These exceptions require commission approval.

Session law 2012-142 clarified eligibility for the ACSP. An applicant or landowner must submit one of the following:

a. A copy of a schedule F or equivalent tax for from the most recent tax year
b. A copy of the agricultural tax exemption issued by the Department of Revenue
c. A copy of the sound forest management plan for tracts actively engaging in the commercial growing of trees.

In extraordinary circumstances an applicant or landowner who does not meet the above criteria may appeal to the SWCC as long as the land has a conservation plan that meets the statutory purpose of the program.

IMPACT OF INCREASED COSTS TO THE ACSP

The ACSP has experienced many challenges due to the increased costs of fuel, labor, and materials over the past few years. Since the ACSP is based on 75 percent of a predetermined average cost for each practice it has been almost impossible to keep up with the cost changes in areas such as gravel, pipe, fencing, lumber, and the cost of operating heavy machinery to install many of the BMPs in the program. In program year 2004, the ACSP was able to contract with 2,053 projects statewide encumbering $6,827,880 compared to only 1,163 projects statewide in the 2013 program year encumbering $4,819,171. Because of the price increase the soil and water conservation districts are not able to help as many farmers install conservation practices.

The ACSP continues to monitor the established average costs list for the program and receives feedback from the local soil and water conservation districts on any adjustments that are needed. Division staff completed a review of the current average cost manual in the spring of 2012 and made the adjustments effective for the 2013 program year. The division staff continues to consider changes in average cost as receipts and documentation determine the current average cost is incorrect.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above considerations, the commission believes the ACSP is being administered cost-effectively and that considerable water quality benefits are being realized for the investment made with state funds. The program aids agricultural operations in making essential water quality improvements. The cost of these water quality practices cannot be passed on to the consumer in the price of the food or fiber product. The ACSP thereby contributes both to water quality and to sustaining a strong state agricultural economy. The Commission continues to emphasize prioritizing, targeting, accountability, leveraging, and adaptability in managing these public funds to further improve the water quality benefits intended by the General Assembly.

Increased costs of fuel, labor, and materials have significantly impacted the amount of conservation the program can effect and the number of cooperating farmers who can be assisted. The commission has taken actions to improve program efficiencies that have helped to partly offset these impacts in the short-term. The ACSP continues to play a vital role in assisting farmers and ranchers with voluntary water quality protection and with compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements. The program is our state's cornerstone in efforts to support private working lands stewardship for the benefit of water quality and all the citizens of the state of North Carolina.

AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM
DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (DIP)
PROGRAM YEAR 2013*

(REVISED August 2012)

Definition of Practices

(1) Abandoned tree removal means to remove Christmas and/or apple tree fields for integrated pest management and for reducing sedimentation. An abandoned tree field can be of any size or age trees where standard management practices (e.g., maintaining groundcover, insect and disease control, fertilizer applications and annual shearing practices) for the production of the trees are discontinued or abandoned. The field must have been abandoned for at least 5 years. Abandonment leads to adverse soil erosion formations such as gullies and to production of disease inoculums and increased pest population. Conversion to grass, hardwoods, or white pine on abandoned fields further protects soil loss by preventing runoff on steep slopes due to a better groundcover thereby providing additional water quality protection. Benefits include water quality protection, prevention of soil erosion, and wildlife habitat establishment.

(2) An abandoned well closure is the sealing and permanent closure of a supply well no longer in use. This practice serves to prevent entry of contaminated surface water, animals, debris, or other foreign substances into the well. It also serves to eliminate the physical hazards of an open hole to people, animals, and farm machinery. Cost share for this practice is limited to $1,500 per well at 75% cost share and $1,800 per well at 90%.

(3) An agrichemical containment and mixing facility means a system of components that provide containment and a barrier to the movement of agrichemicals. The purpose of the system is to provide secondary containment to prevent degradation of surface water, groundwater, and soil from unintentional release of pesticides or fertilizers. Cost share for this practice is limited to $16,500 per facility at 75% cost share and $19,800 per facility at 90%.

(4) An agrichemical handling facility means a permanent structure that provides an environmentally safe means of mixing agrichemicals and filling tanks with agrichemicals for application and storage to improve water quality. Benefits may include prevention of accidental degradation of surface and ground water. Cost share for this practice is limited to $27,500 per facility at 75% cost share and $33,000 per facility at 90%.

(5) Agricultural pond restoration/repair means to restore or repair existing failing agricultural pond systems. Benefits may include erosion control, flood control, and sediment and nutrient reductions from farm fields for better water quality. This practice is only applicable to low hazard classification ponds. For restoration projects involving dam, spillway, or overflow pipe upgrades, cost share is limited to $15,000 per pond at 75% cost share and $18,000 per pond at 90%. For restoration projects involving removal of accumulated sediment only, total charge to NCACSP is restricted to a total of $3,000 per pond at 75% cost share and $3,600 per pond at 90%.

(6) Agricultural road repair/stabilization means repair or stabilization of existing access roads utilized for agricultural operations, including roads to existing crop fields, pastures, and barns.

(7) Agricultural temporary water collection pond means to construct an agricultural water collection system for water reuse or irrigation to improve water quality. These systems may include construction of new ponds, utilizing existing ponds, water storage tanks and pumps in order to intercept sediment, nutrients, manage chlorophyll a. These systems may have the added benefit of reducing the demand on the water supply, and decreasing withdrawal from aquifers but these benefits shall not be the justification for this practice.

(8) Chemigation or fertigation backflow prevention is a combination of devices (valves, gauges, injectors, drains, etc.) to safeguard water sources from contamination by fertilizers used during the irrigation of agricultural crops. The practice is intended to modify or improve fertilizer injection systems with components necessary to prevent backflow or siphoning of contaminants into the water supply thereby improving and protecting the state's waters.

(9) A conservation cover practice means to establish and maintain a conservation cover of grass, legumes, or other approved plantings on fields previously with no groundcover established, to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Other benefits may include reduced offsite sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Eligible land includes that planted to Christmas Trees, orchards, ornamentals, vineyards and other cropland needing protective cover.

(10) A three-year conservation tillage system means any tillage and planting system in which at least (60) sixty percent of the soil surface is covered by plant residue for the same fields for three consecutive years to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. This incentive is broken down into two categories depending on the crop(s) to be grown:

(a) Grain crops and cotton
(b) Vegetables, Tobacco, Peanuts, and Sweet Corn

Cost share for each category of this practice is limited to $15,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(11) A cover crop means a crop of grasses, legumes, or small grain grown primarily for seasonal protection, erosion control and soil improvement. It usually is grown for one year or less. The major purpose is water and wind erosion control, to cycle plant nutrients, add organic matter to the soil, improve infiltration, aeration and tilth, improve soil quality, reduce soil crusting, and sequester carbon. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive practice is limited to $15,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(12) A critical area planting means an area of highly erodible land that cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment on which permanent perennial vegetative cover is

established and protected to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

(13) A cropland conversion practice means to establish and maintain a conservation cover of grasses, trees, or wildlife plantings on fields previously used for crop production to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(14) Crop residue management means maintaining cover on sixty (60) percent of the soil surface at planting to protect water quality. Crop residue management also provides seasonal soil protection from wind and rain erosion, adds organic matter to the soil, conserves soil moisture, and improves infiltration, aeration and tilth. Benefits may include reduction in soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive practice is limited to $15,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(15) A diversion means a channel constructed across a slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side to control drainage by diverting excess water from an area to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(16) A field border means a strip of perennial vegetation established at the edge of the field that provides a stabilized outlet for row water to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(17) A filter strip means an area of permanent perennial vegetation for removing sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants from runoff and waste water to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.

(18) A grade stabilization structure means a structure (earth embankment, mechanical spillway, detention-type, etc.) used to control the grade and head cutting in natural or artificial channels to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

(19) A grassed waterway means a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(20) A heavy use area protection means an area used frequently and intensively by animals, which must be stabilized by surfacing with suitable materials to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.

(21) A land smoothing practice means reshaping the surface of agricultural land to planned grades for the purpose of improving water quality. Improvements to water quality include:

(a) Reduction in nutrient loss.
(b) Reduction in concentrated flow of water from an agricultural field.
(c) Improved infiltration.

(22) A livestock exclusion system means a system of permanent fencing (board or barbed, high tensile or electric wire) installed to exclude livestock from streams and critical areas not intended for grazing to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.

(23) A livestock feeding area is a sized concrete pad where feeders are located, surrounded by a heavy use area. The livestock feeding area is designed for the purpose of improving the lifespan of the heavy use area and to reduce the runoff of nutrients and fecal coliform to adjacent water bodies. The practice is to be used to address water quality concerns where livestock feeding areas are in close proximity to streams and where relocation or rotation of feeding areas is infeasible due to physical limitations (e.g., slope) and where other stream protection measures are insufficient to protect water quality. Cost share for the concrete pad for this practice is limited to $4,200 at 75% cost share and $5,040 at 90%.

(24) A long term no-till practice means planting all crops for five consecutive years with at least eighty (80) percent plant residue from preceding crops to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive or this incentive combined with 3-year conservation tillage for grain and cotton is limited to $25,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(25) A micro-irrigation system means an environmentally safe system for the conveyance and distribution of water, chemicals, and fertilizer to agricultural fields for crop production. A micro-irrigation system is for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface as drops, tiny streams, or miniature spray through emitters or applicators placed along a water delivery line. This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following purposes:

(a) To efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture for plant growth.
(b) To efficiently and uniformly apply plant nutrients in a manner that protects water quality.
(c) To prevent contamination of ground and surface water by efficiently and uniformly applying chemicals and fertilizers.
(d) To establish desired vegetation.

Cost share for this practice will be based on actual cost with receipts required not to exceed $25,000 charge to the NCACSP at 75% cost share and $30,000 at 90%, including the cost of backflow prevention.

(26) A nutrient management means a definitive plan to manage the amount, form, placement, and timing of applications of nutrients to minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater and improve water quality.

(27) A nutrient scavenger crop is a crop of small grain grown primarily as a seasonal nutrient scavenger. The purpose is to scavenge and cycle plant nutrients. The nutrient scavenger crop also adds organic matter to the soil, improves infiltration, aeration and tilth, improves soil quality, reduces soil crusting, provides residue for conservation tillage, and sequesters carbon. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive practice is limited to $25,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(28) A pastureland conversion practice means establishing trees or perennial wildlife plantings on excessively eroding land with a visible sediment delivery problem to the waters of the state used for pasture that is too steep to mow or maintain with conventional equipment to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

(29) A pasture renovation practice means to establish and maintain a conservation cover of grass, where existing pasture vegetation is inadequate. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(30) A portable agrichemical mixing station means a portable device to be used in the field to prevent the unintentional release of agrichemicals to the environment during mixing and transferring of agrichemicals. Benefits may include prevention of accidental degradation of surface and ground water. Cost share for this practice is limited to $3,500 per station at 75% cost share and $4,200 at 90%. Cost share is also limited to one station per cooperator.

(31) Precision Agrichemical Application means using a system of components that enable reduction and greater control of fertilizer and pesticide application. This is accomplished through avoidance of excessive overlapping, unnecessary application to end/turn rows, and more precise control of application rates.

(32) Precision nutrient management means applying nitrogen; phosphorus and lime in a site-specific manner (with specialized application equipment or multiple application events) based on the site specific recommendations for each GPS-referenced sampling point to minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater and improve water quality. Cost share for this incentive is limited to $15,000 per cooperator.

(33) Prescribed grazing involves managing the intensity, frequency, duration, timing, and number of grazing animals on pastureland in accordance with site production limitations, rate of plant growth, physiological needs of forage plants for production and persistence, and nutritional needs of the grazing animals. The goal of this practice is to reduce accelerated soil erosion and compaction, to improve or maintain riparian and watershed function, to maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity, to improve nutrient distribution, and to improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant communities. Productive pastures maintain wildlife habitat and permeable green space. Cost share for this incentive is limited to $15,000 per cooperator.

(34) A riparian buffer means a permanent, long-lived vegetative cover (grass, shrubs, trees, or a combination of vegetation types) established adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced

soil erosion and nutrient delivery, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate and sediment-attached substances.

(35) A rock-lined outlet means a waterway having an erosion-resistant lining of concrete, stone or other permanent material where an unlined or grassed waterway would be inadequate to improve water quality. Benefits may include safe disposal of runoff, reduced erosion and sedimentation.

(36) A rooftop runoff management system means a system of collection and stabilization practices (dripline stabilization, guttering, collection boxes, etc.) to prevent rainfall runoff from agricultural rooftops from causing erosion where vegetative practices are insufficient to address erosion concerns and protect water quality.

(37) A sediment control basin means a basin constructed to trap and store waterborne sediment where physical conditions or land ownership preclude treatment of a sediment source by the installation of other erosion control measures to improve water quality.

(38) A sod-based rotation practice means an adapted sequence of crops, grasses and legumes or a mixture thereof established and maintained for a definite number of years as part of a conservation cropping system which is designed to provide adequate organic residue for maintenance or improvement of soil tilth to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive practice is limited to $25,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(39) A stock trail or walkway means to provide a stable area used frequently and intensively for livestock movement by surfacing with suitable material to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.

(40) A stream protection system means a planned system for protecting streams and stream banks that eliminates the need for livestock to be in streams by providing an alternative-watering source for livestock to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination, and pollution from dissolved, particulate and sediment-attached substances. System components may include:

(a) A spring development means improving springs and seeps by excavating, cleaning, capping or providing collection and storage facilities.
(b) A stream crossing means a trail constructed across a stream to allow livestock to cross without disturbing the bottom or causing soil erosion on the banks.
(c) A trough or tank means devices installed to provide drinking water for livestock at a stabilized location.
(d) A well means constructing a drilled, driven or dug well to supply water from an underground source.
(e) A windmill means erecting or constructing a mill operated by the wind's rotation of large vanes and is used as a source of power for pumping water.

(41) Streambank and shoreline protection means the use of vegetation to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries, or excavated channels against scour and

erosion. This practice should be used to prevent the loss of land or damage to utilities, roads, buildings, or other facilities adjacent to the banks, to maintain the capacity of the channel, to control channel meander that would adversely affect downstream facilities, to reduce sediment load causing downstream damages and pollution, or to improve the stream for recreation or fish and wildlife habitat.

(42) A stream restoration system means the use of bioengineering practices, native material revetments, channel stability structures, and/or the restoration or management of riparian corridors in order to protect upland BMPs, restore the natural function of the stream corridor and improve water quality by reducing sedimentation to streams from streambank. Cost share for this practice is limited to $50,000 per cooperator per year at 75% cost share and to $60,000 per year at 90%.

(43) A stripcropping practice means to grow crops and sod in a systematic arrangement of alternating strips or bands on the contour to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. The crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or close-growing crop is alternated with a strip of clean-tilled crop, fallow, or no-till crop, or a strip of grass is alternated with a close-growing crop.

(44) A terrace means an earth embankment, a channel, or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(45) A waste management system means a planned system in which all necessary components are installed for managing liquid and solid waste to prevent or minimize degradation of soil and ground and surface water resources. System components may include:

(A) A closure of waste impoundment means the safe removal of existing waste and waste water and the application of this waste on land in an environmentally safe manner. This practice is only applicable to waste storage ponds and lagoons. Cost share for this practice is limited to $75,000 per cooperator at 75% cost share and $90,000 at 90% cost share.

(B) A concentrated nutrient source management system is a system of vegetative and structural measures used to manage the collection, storage, and/or treatment of areas where agricultural products may cause an area of concentrated nutrients.

(C) A constructed wetland for land application practice means an artificial wetland area into which liquid animal waste from a waste storage pond or lagoon is dispersed over time to lower the nutrient content of the liquid animal waste.

(D) A drystack means a fabricated structure for temporary storage of animal waste. Cost share for drystacks for poultry and non-.0200 animal operations are limited to $33,000 per structure at 75% cost share and $39,600 at 90%.

(E) The feeding/waste storage structure is designed for the purpose of improving the collection/storage of animal waste and to reduce runoff of nutrients and fecal

coliform to adjacent water bodies. The practice is intended to be used where livestock feeding areas are in close proximity to streams and where relocation or rotation of feeding areas is infeasible due to physical limitations (e.g., slope) and where other stream protection measures are insufficient to address water quality concerns. Cost share for this practice is limited to $27,500 per structure at 75% cost share and $33,000 per structure at 90%.

(F) An insect control system means a practice or combination of practices (planting windbreaks, pre-charging structures, incorporation of waste into soil, etc.) which manages or controls insects from confined animal operations, waste treatment and storage structures, and waste applied to agricultural land.

(G) Lagoon biosolids removal means removing accumulated biosolids from active lagoons to restore required treatment volume at on-going operations. The biosolids will be properly utilized on offsite farmland or processed to a value-added product, including energy production, to reduce nutrient impacts. Lagoon Biosolids Removal Incentive payments shall be limited to $15,000 in a lifetime.

(H) A livestock mortality management system is a facility for managing livestock mortalities such as to minimize water quality impacts or to produce a material that can be recycled as a soil amendment and fertilizer substitute. Cost shareable mortality management system components include: composter, rotary drum composter, forced aeration static pile composter, mortality freezer, mortality incinerator, and mortality gasification system.

(I) A manure composting facility is a facility for the biological treatment, stabilization and environmentally safe storage of organic waste material (such as manure from poultry and livestock) to minimize water quality impacts and to produce a material that can be recycled as a soil amendment and fertilizer substitute.

(J) Manure/litter transportation means transporting dry litter and dry manure from livestock and poultry farms that lack sufficient land to effectively utilize the animal-derived nutrients. The litter/manure will be properly utilized on alternative land or processed to a value-added product, including energy production, to reduce nutrient impacts. Manure/Litter Transportation Incentive payments shall be limited to 3-years per applicant and $15,000 in a lifetime.

(K) An odor control management system means a practice or combination of practices (planting windbreaks, pre-charging structures, incorporation of waste into soil, etc.) which manages or controls odors from confined animal operations, waste treatment and storage structures and waste applied to agricultural land.

(L) A retrofit of on-going animal operations means modification of structures to increase storage or to correct design flaws to meet current standards. This practice may also be used to close waste impoundments on on-going operations, including the safe removal of existing waste and waste water and the application of this waste on land in an environmentally safe manner. .

(M) A solids separation from tank-based aquaculture production means a facility for the removal, storage and dewatering of solid waste from the effluent of intensive tank-based aquaculture production systems. The system is used to capture

organic solids from the effluent stream of intensive fish production systems that would otherwise flow to effluent ponds for storage and further treatment. This waste comes from uneaten feed and feces generated by fish while being fed within a tank-or raceway based fish farm.

(N) A storm water management system means a system of collection and diversion practices (guttering, collection boxes, diversions, etc.) to prevent unpolluted storm water from flowing across concentrated waste areas on animal operations.

(O) A waste application system means an environmentally safe system (such as solid set, dry hydrant, mobile irrigation equipment, etc.) for the conveyance and distribution of animal wastes from waste treatment and storage structures to agricultural fields as part of an irrigation and waste utilization plan. Cost share for this practice is limited to $35,000 per cooperator in a lifetime at 75% cost share and $42,000 in a lifetime at 90%.

(P) A waste storage pond means an impoundment made by excavation or earthfill for temporary storage of animal waste, waste water and polluted runoff.

(Q) A waste treatment lagoon means an impoundment made by excavation or earthfill for biological treatment and storage of animal waste.

(46) A water control structure means a permanent structure placed in a farm canal, ditch, or subsurface drainage conduit (drain tile or tube), which provides control of the stage or discharge of surface and/or subsurface drainage. The management mechanism of the structure may be flashboards, gates, valves, risers, or pipes. The primary purpose of the water control structure is to improve water quality by elevating the water table and reducing drainage outflow. A secondary purpose is to restore hydrology in riparian buffers to the extent practical. Elevating the water table promotes denitrification and lower nitrate levels in drainage water from cropping systems and minimizes the effects of short-circuiting of drainage systems passing through riparian buffers. Other benefits may include reduced pollution from other dissolved and sediment-attached substances, reduced downstream sedimentation and reduced stormwater surges of fresh water into estuarine area.

This practice is not intended to be used to control water inflow from tidal influence (i.e., no tide gates).

(47) A wetland restoration system means a system of practices designed to restore the natural hydrology of an area that had been drained and cropped.

*To be used in conjunction with the most recent version of the APA Rules for the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control and the NC-ACSP Manual.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ELIGIBLE FOR COST SHARE PAYMENTS

(1) Best Management Practices eligible for cost sharing include the practices listed in Table 1 and any approved District BMPs. District BMPs shall be reviewed by the Division for technical merit in achieving the goals of this program. Upon approval by the Division, the District BMPs will be eligible to receive cost share funding.

Table 1

Practice	Minimum Life Expectancy (years)
Abandoned Tree Removal	10
Abandoned Well Closure	1
Agrichemical Containment and Mixing Facility	10
Agrichemical Handling Facility	10
Agricultural Pond Restoration/Repair	10
Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization	10
Agricultural Water Collection System	10
Backflow Prevention System	
Chemigation	10
Fertigation	10
Conservation Cover	6
3-Year Conservation Tillage System	3
Cover Crops	1
Critical Area Planting	10
Cropland Conversion	10
Crop Residue Management	1
Diversion	10
Field Border	10
Filter Strip	10
Grade Stabilization Structure	10
Grassed Waterway	10
Heavy Use Area Protection	10
Land Smoothing	5
Livestock Exclusion	10
Livestock Feeding Area	10
Long Term No-Till	5
Micro-Irrigation System	10
Nutrient Management	3
Nutrient Scavenger Cover Crop	1
Pasture Renovation	10
Pastureland Conversion	10
Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station	5
Precision Agrichemical Application	5
Precision Nutrient Management	3
Prescribed Grazing	3

Riparian Buffer	10
Rock-lined Waterway or Outlet	10
Rooftop Runoff Management System	10
Sediment Control Basin	10
Sod-based Rotation	4 or 5
Stock Trail and Walkway	10
Stream Protection System	
Spring Development	10
Stream Crossing	10
Trough or Tank	10
Well	10
Windmills	10
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	10
Stream Restoration	10
Stripcropping	5
Terrace	10
Waste Management System	
Closure of Abandoned Waste Impoundment	10
Concentrated Nutrient Source Management System	10
Constructed Wetland for Land Application	10
Drystack	10
Feeding/Waste Storage Structure	10
Insect Control System	5
Lagoon Biosolids Removal Incentive	1
Livestock Mortality Management System	
Incinerator	5
Others Systems	10
Manure Composting Facility	10
Manure/Litter Transportation Incentive	1
Odor Management System	1 to 10
Retrofit of On-going Animal Operations	10
Solids Separation from Tank-Based Aquaculture Production	10
Storm Water Management System	10
Waste Application System	10
Waste Storage Pond	10
Waste Treatment Lagoon	10
Water Control Structure	10
Wetlands Restoration System	10

(2) The minimum life expectancy of the BMPs shall be that listed in Table 1. Practices designated by a District shall meet the life expectancy requirement established by the Division for that District BMP.

(3) The list of BMPs eligible for cost sharing may be revised by the Commission as deemed appropriate in order to meet program purpose and goals.

Attachment B

NC AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES OF APPROVED BMPs

Purpose: Stream Protection Measures

BMP	Reduction of applied nutrient	Reduction of soil loss	Facilitating BMP	Life of BMP (yrs.)
Heavy Use Area Protection	-	√	-	10
Livestock Exclusion System	√	√	-	10
Spring Development	-	-		10
Stock Trail	-	√	-	10
Stream Crossing		√	-	10
Trough or Tank	-	-	√	10
Well	-	-	√	10
Windmill	-	-	√	10
Livestock Feeding Area	-	-	√	10

Purpose: Waste Management Measures – Mortality and Manure Management

BMP	Proper mgmt. of nutrients	Reduction of soil loss	Nutrient interception	Facilitating BMP	Life of BMP (yrs.)
Closure of Waste Impoundment	√	-	-	-	10
Constructed wetlands	√	-	√	-	10
Controlled Livestock Lounging Area	-	√	-	√	10
Dry Manure Stack	√	-	-	-	10
Feeding/Waste Storage					10
Heavy Use Area Protection	-	√	-	-	10
Insect Control	-	-	-	-	5
Odor Control	-	-	-	-	1-10
Storm Water Management	√	-	-	-	10
Waste Treatment Lagoon/Storage Pond	√	-	-	-	10
Mortality Management Systems Incinerators	√ √	- -	- -	- -	10 5
Waste Application System	√	-	-	√	10
Tank-Based Aquaculture	√	-	-	-	10
Manure/Litter Transportation Incentive	√	-	-	-	1
Manure Composting Facility	√				10
Lagoon Biosolids Removal Incentive	√	-	-	-	1
Concentrated Nutrient Source Management	√			√	10

Attachment B

Purpose: Erosion Reduction/Nutrient Loss Reduction in Fields

BMP	Reduction of applied nutrient	Reduction of soil loss	Life of BMP (yrs.)
Conservation Tillage 3-yr	√	√	3
Long Term No-till	√	√	5
Critical Area Planting	√	√	10
Cropland Conversion	√	√	10
Water Diversion	√	√	10
Land Smoothing	√	√	10
Wetlands Restoration	√	√	10
Pastureland Conversion	√	√	10
Sod-based Rotation	√	√	4 or 5
Stripcropping	√	√	5
Terraces	√	√	10
Conservation Cover	√	√	6
Nutrient Scavenger Cover Crop	√	√	10
Cover Crop	√	√	1
Pasture Renovation	√	√	10
Micro-Irrigation System	√	√	10
Rooftop Runoff Management		√	10
Prescribed Grazing	√	√	3
Crop Residue Management	√	√	3

Purpose: Agricultural Chemical Pollution Prevention

BMP	Interception of chemicals	Life of BMP (yrs.)
Abandoned Tree Removal	√	10
Agri-chemical Handling Facility	√	10
Fertigation Back Flow Prevention	√	10
Chemigation Back Flow Prevention	√	10
Portable Pesticide Mixing Station	√	5
Agrichemical Containment and Mixing Facility	√	10

Attachment B

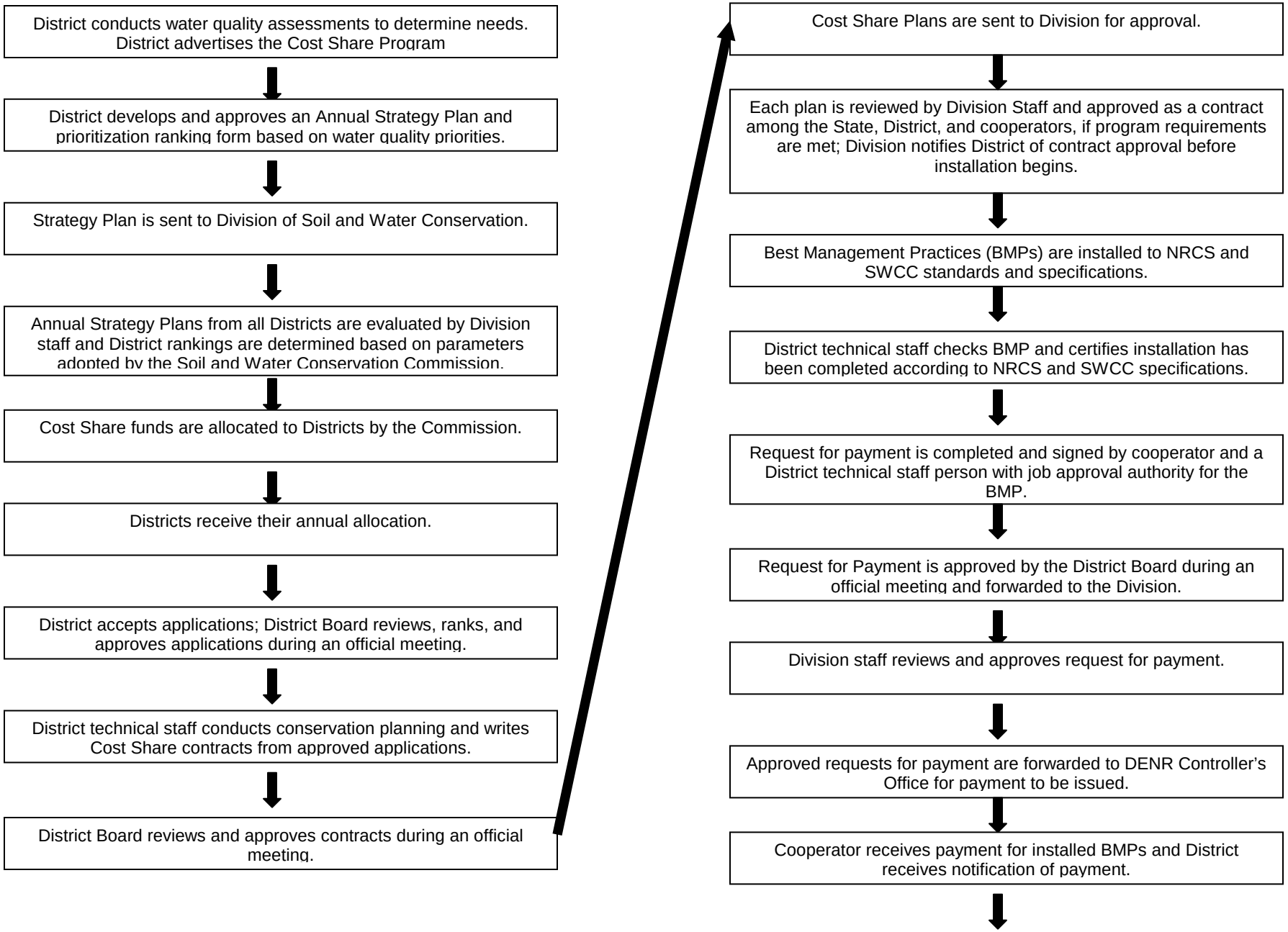
Purpose: Sediment/Nutrient Delivery Reduction from Fields

BMP	Reduction of applied nutrient	Reduction of soil loss	Nutrient interception	Facilitating BMP	Life of BMP (yrs)
Field Border	-	√	√	-	10
Filter Strip	-	√	√	-	10
Grade Stabilization Structure	-	-	-	√	10
Grassed Waterway	-	√	√	-	10
Nutrient Mgmt.	√	-	-	-	3
Riparian Buffer	-	√	√	-	10
Rock-lined Outlet	-	-	-	√	10
Sediment Control Basin	-	-	√	-	10
Water Control Structure	-	√	√	-	10
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	-	√	√	-	10
Stream Restoration		√			10
Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization	-	√	-	-	10
Abandoned Well Closure	-	-	-	√	1
Agricultural Pond Restoration/Repair		√	√		10
Precision Nutrient Management	√			√	3

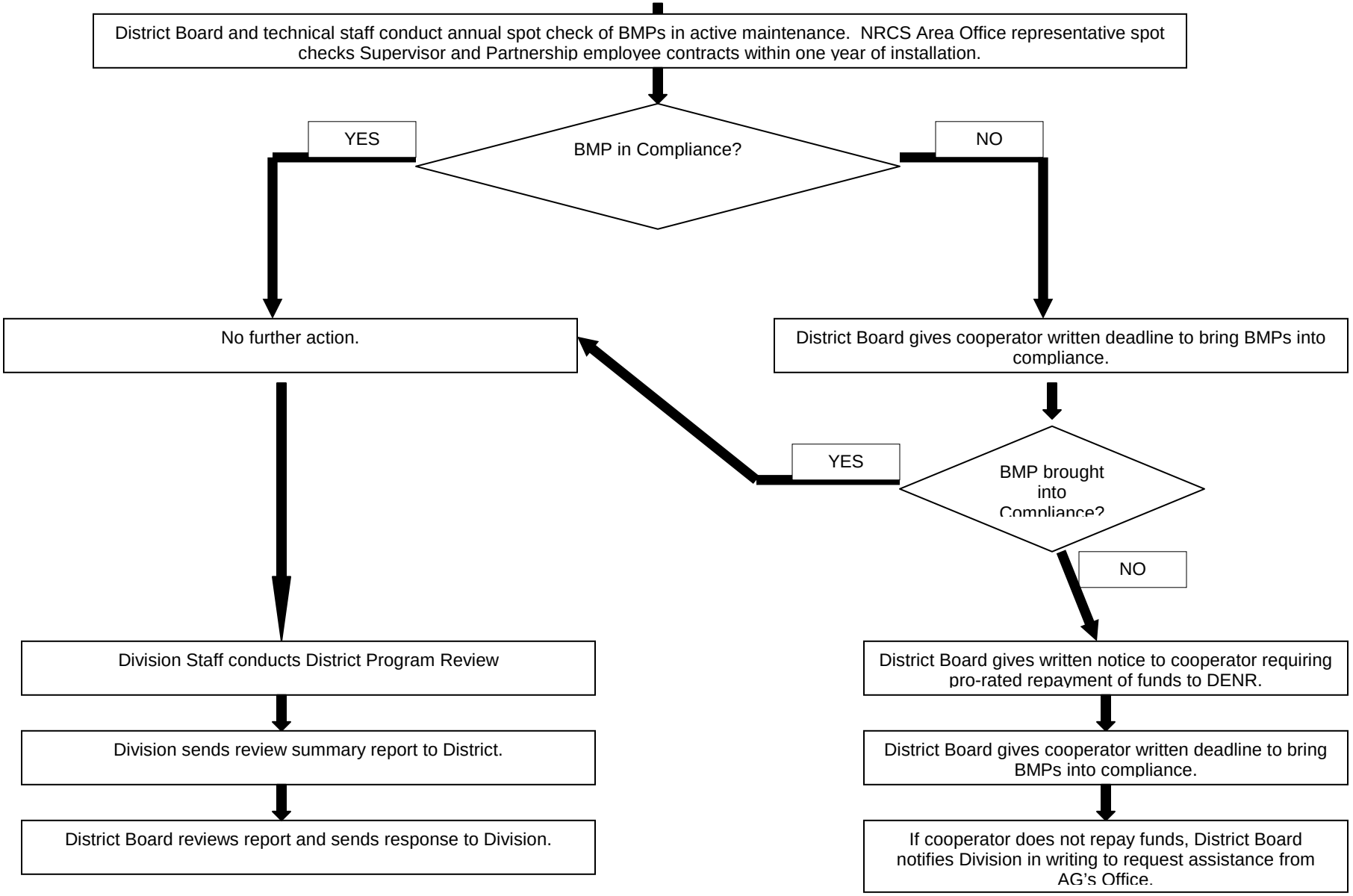
Attachment C

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program

Funding and Compliance Process



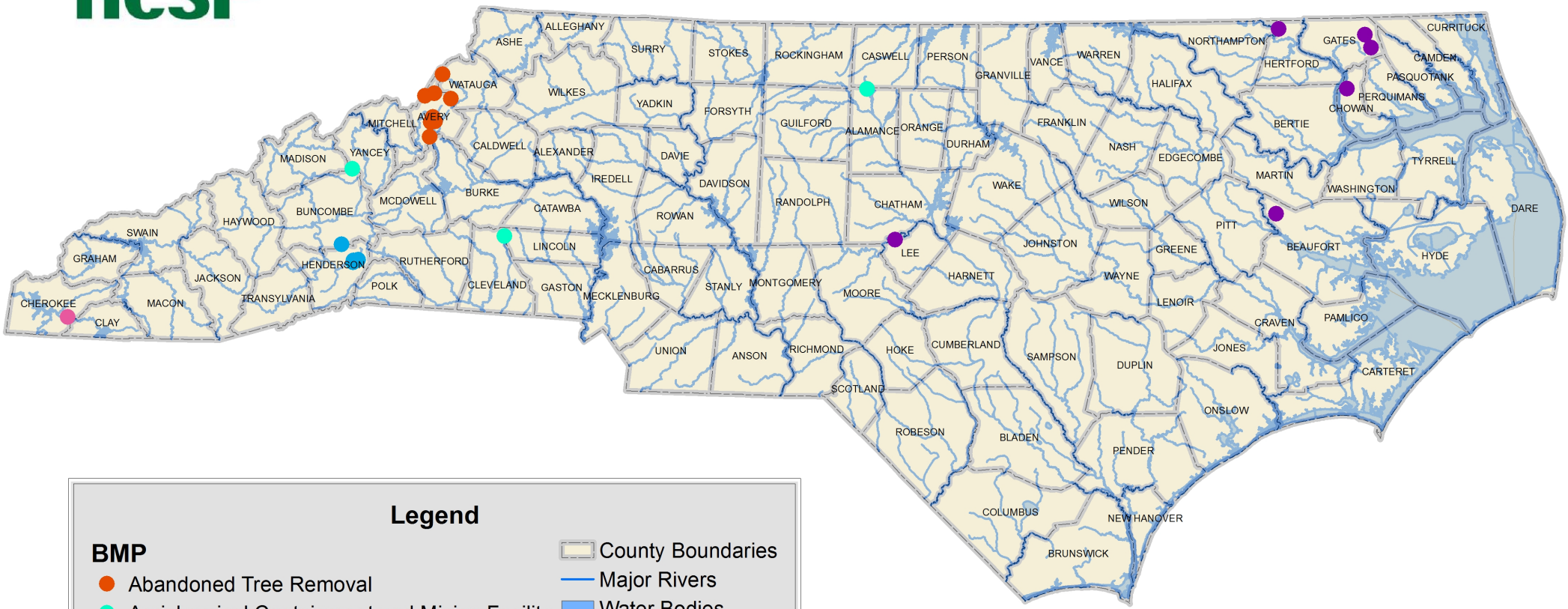
Attachment C



Attachement D

ATTACHMENT 7

ACSP Program for North Carolina 2013 Agri-Chemical Pollution Prevention Projects



Legend

BMP

- Abandoned Tree Removal
- Agrichemical Containment and Mixing Facility
- Agrichemical Handling Facility
- Chemigation Backflow Prevention System
- Precision Agrichemical Application

- County Boundaries
- Major Rivers
- Water Bodies

Points represent the approximate BMP locations based on the latitude/longitude provided by the local soil and water conservation districts. This data represents 22 BMPs contracted in PY 2013 for this BMP type.

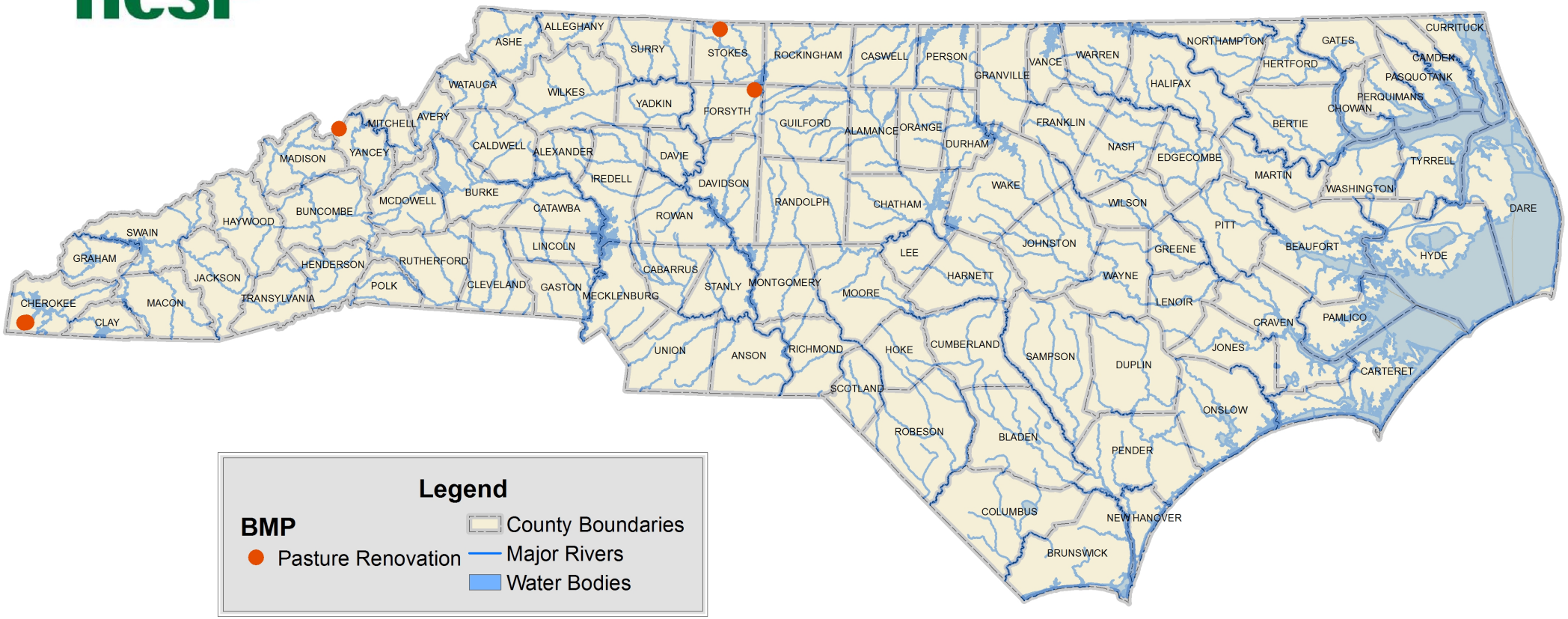
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation

0 20 40 80 120 160 200 240 Miles

Attachement D

ATTACHMENT 7

ACSP Program for North Carolina
2013 Drought Management Projects



Legend

BMP
- Pasture Renovation

- County Boundaries
- Major Rivers
- Water Bodies

Points represent the approximate BMP locations based on the latitude/longitude provided by the local soil and water conservation districts. This data represents 5 BMPs contracted in PY 2013 for this BMP type.

NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation

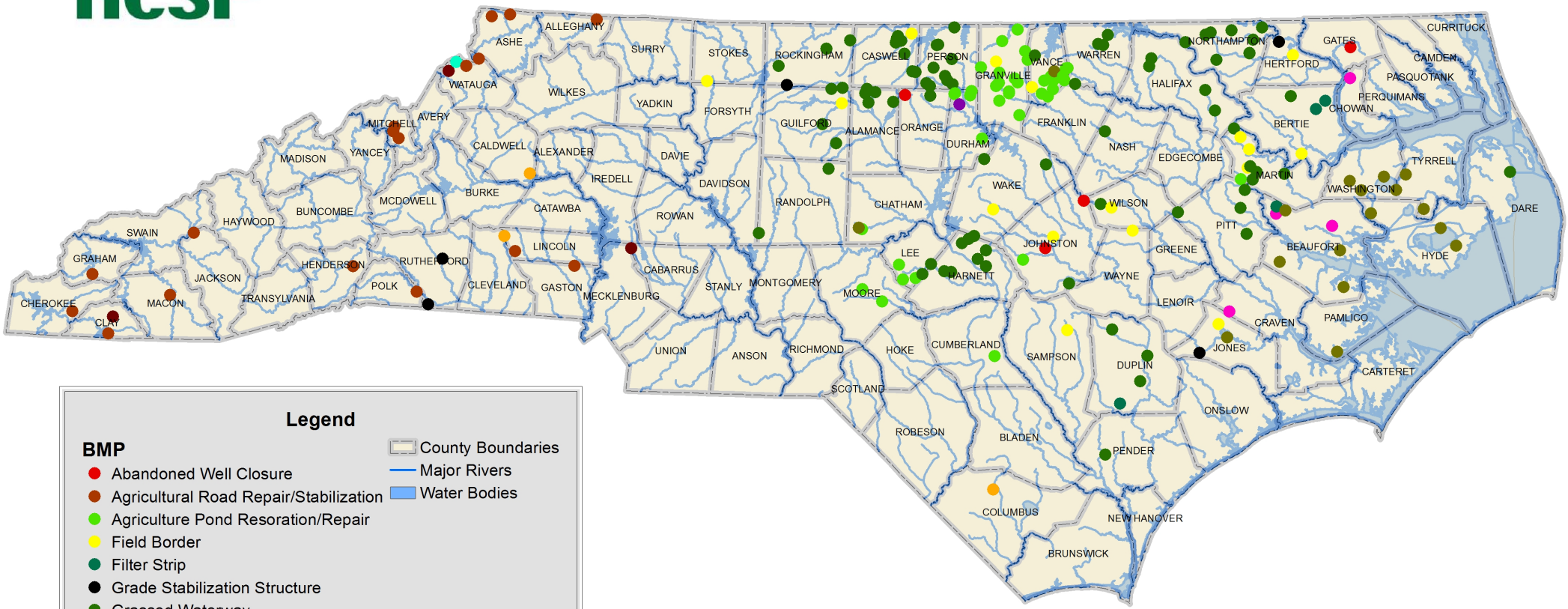
0 20 40 80 120 160 200 240 Miles

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS Yours for Life

Attachement D

ATTACHMENT 7

ACSP Program for North Carolina 2013 Sediment/Nutrient Reduction Projects



Legend

BMP

- Abandoned Well Closure
- Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization
- Agriculture Pond Resoration/Repair
- Field Border
- Filter Strip
- Grade Stabilization Structure
- Grassed Waterway
- Precision Nutrient Management
- Riparian Buffer
- Rock-lined Outlet
- Stream Restoration
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- Water Control Structure

- County Boundaries
- Major Rivers
- Water Bodies

Points represent the approximate BMP locations based on the latitude/longitude provided by the local soil and water conservation districts. This data represents 230 BMPs contracted in PY 2013 for this BMP type.

NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation

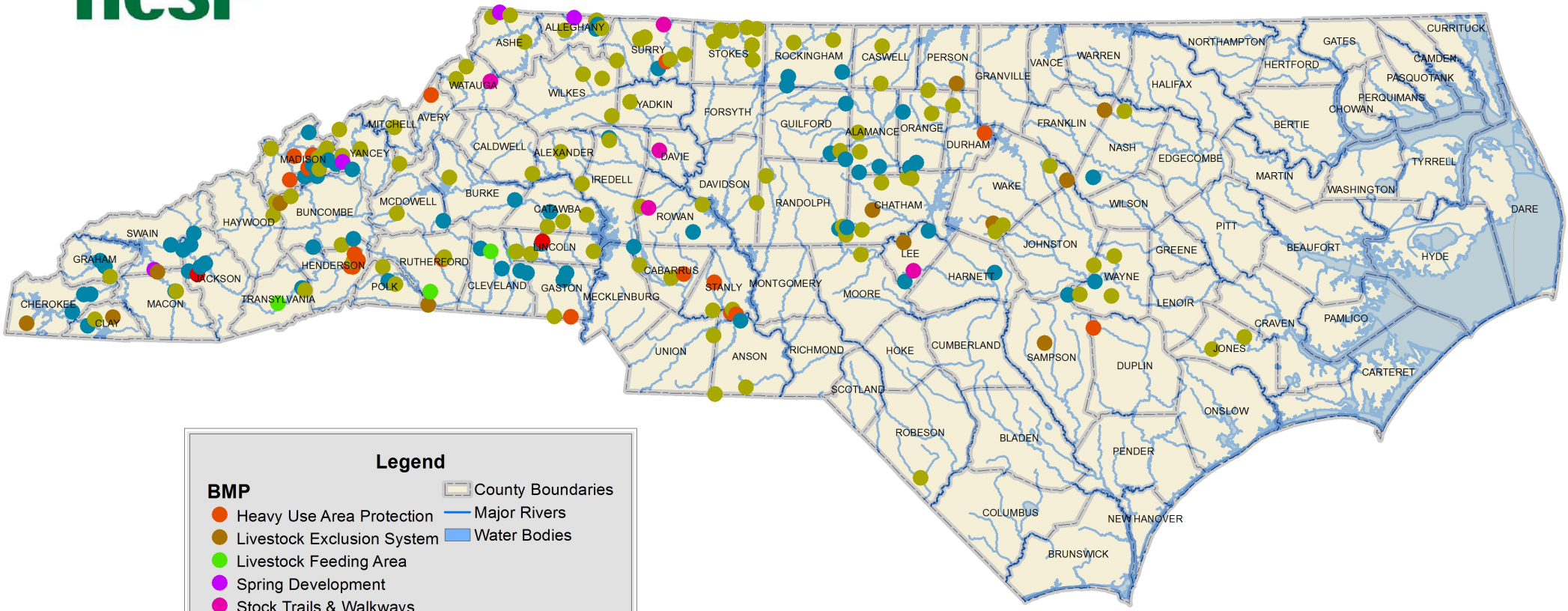
0 20 40 80 120 160 200 240 Miles

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS Yours for Life

Attachement D

ATTACHMENT 7

ACSP Program for North Carolina
2013 Stream Protection Projects



Legend

BMP
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Livestock Exclusion System
- Livestock Feeding Area
- Spring Development
- Stock Trails & Walkways
- Stream Crossing
- Watering Tanks (Troughs)
- Well

- County Boundaries
- Major Rivers
- Water Bodies

Points represent the approximate BMP locations based on the latitude/longitude provided by the local soil and water conservation districts. This data represents 476 BMPs contracted in PY 2013 for this BMP type.

NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation

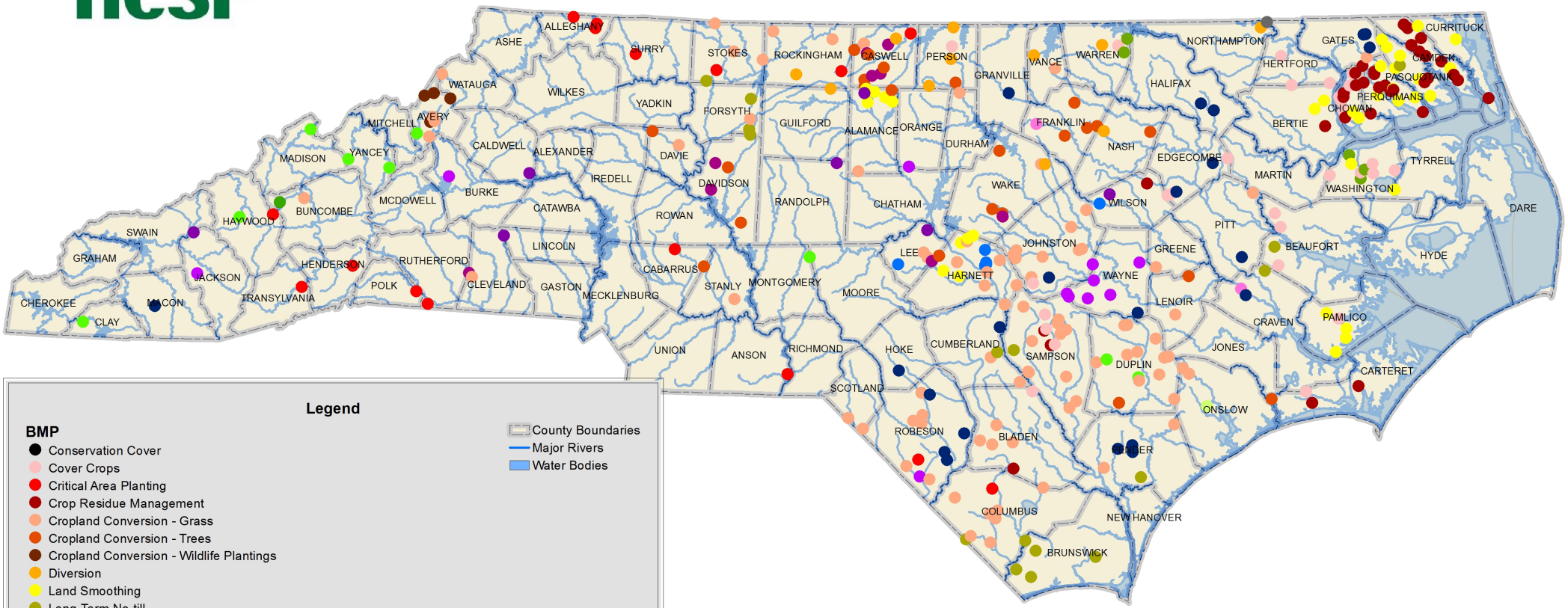
0 20 40 80 120 160 200 240 Miles

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS Yours for Life

Attachement D

ATTACHMENT 7

ACSP Program for North Carolina 2013 Erosion/Nutrient Reduction Projects



Legend

BMP

- Conservation Cover
- Cover Crops
- Critical Area Planting
- Crop Residue Management
- Cropland Conversion - Grass
- Cropland Conversion - Trees
- Cropland Conversion - Wildlife Plantings
- Diversion
- Land Smoothing
- Long-Term No-till
- Micro-Irrigation
- Nutrient Scavenger Crop
- Pasture Renovation
- Pastureland Conversion
- Prescribed Grazing
- Rooftop Runoff Management System
- Sod-Based Rotation - 3 Year SBR (17 months)
- Sod-Based Rotation - 5 Year SBR (41 months)
- Terrace
- Three Year Conservation Tillage for Grain and Cotton
- Three Year Conservation Tillage for Peanuts, Sweet Corn, Tobacco & Vegetables

- County Boundaries
- Major Rivers
- Water Bodies

Points represent the approximate BMP locations based on the latitude/longitude provided by the local soil and water conservation districts. This data represents 354 BMPs contracted in PY 2013 for this BMP type.

NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation

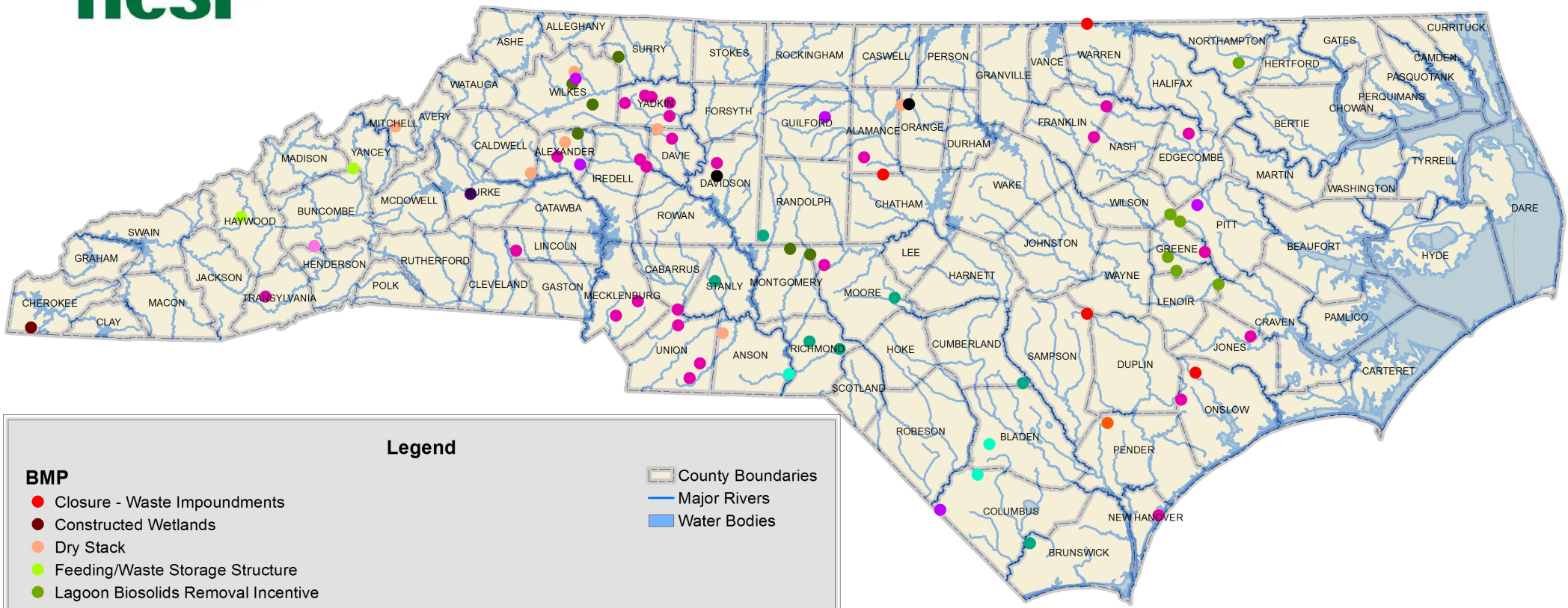
0 20 40 80 120 160 200 240 Miles

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS Yours for Life

Attachement D

ATTACHMENT 7

ACSP Program for North Carolina
2013 Waste Management Projects



Legend

BMP

- Closure - Waste Impoundments
- Constructed Wetlands
- Dry Stack
- Feeding/Waste Storage Structure
- Lagoon Biosolids Removal Incentive
- Livestock Mortality Management System - Composter
- Livestock Mortality Management System - Forced Aeration Static Pile Composter
- Livestock Mortality Management System - Mortality Incinerator
- Livestock Mortality Management System - Rotary Drum Composter
- Manure Composting Facility
- Stormwater Management System
- Waste Application Systems - Mobile Application System
- Waste Application Systems - Solid Set System
- Waste Application Systems - Underground Main and Hydrant System

- County Boundaries
- Major Rivers
- Water Bodies

Points represent the approximate BMP locations based on the latitude/longitude provided by the local soil and water conservation districts. This data represents 76 BMPs contracted in PY 2013 for this BMP type.

NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation

0 20 40 80 120 160 200 240 Miles

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS Yours for Life

Report to the Environmental Review Commission and Fiscal Research Division of the N.C. General Assembly on the Community Conservation Assistance Program

FISCAL YEAR 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

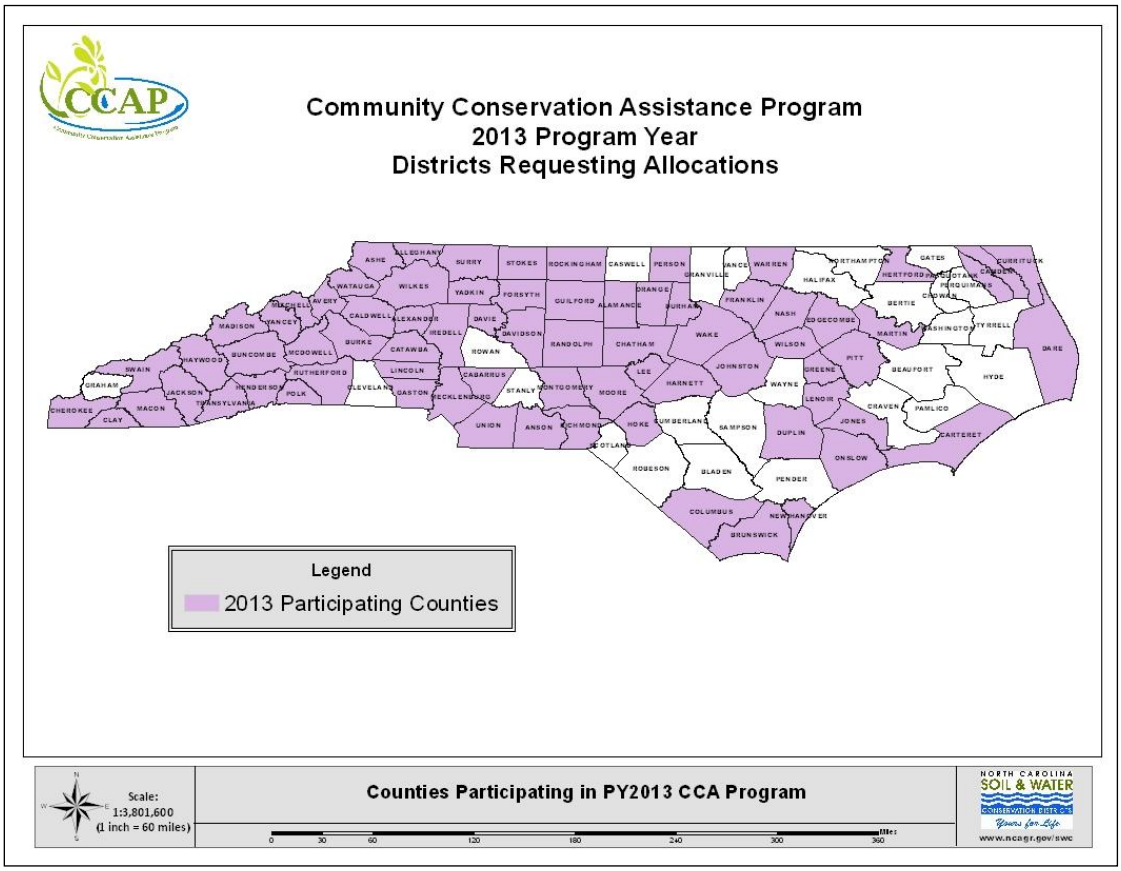
January 2014

General Statute 143-215.74M(e) of Session Law 2006-78 mandates that the Soil and Water Conservation Commission report to the Environmental Review Commission and the Fiscal Research Division a summary of the Community Conservation Assistance Program (herein referred to as CCAP) annually. The purpose of CCAP is to reduce the delivery of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution into the waters of the State by installing best management practices (BMPs) on developed lands, not directly involved in agricultural production. Through this voluntary, incentive-based conservation program, landowners are provided educational, technical and financial assistance.

Eligible landowners, including homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, churches, and others, may be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the cost of retrofitting BMPs. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (districts) provide educational services to local governments and the public and direct technical and financial assistance to property owners. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission administers the program through the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. CCAP BMPs include: abandoned well closures, backyard rain gardens, backyard wetlands, bioretention areas, cisterns, critical area plantings, diversions, grassed swales, impervious surface conversions, marsh sills, permeable pavement, pet waste receptacles, riparian buffers, stormwater wetlands, stream restoration, stream and shoreline protection, and structural stormwater conveyance. During PY2013, the CCAP Advisory Committee utilized the technical skills of its members to develop additional design tools and maintenance plans for various BMPs. More information regarding CCAP BMPs can be found in Appendix A, the Detailed Implementation Plan.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 the Division of Soil and Water Conservation received recurring appropriated funds for CCAP in the amount of $193,097. A portion of these funds support a full-time permanent employee to coordinate the program and administer the funds for program implementation. To maintain technical assistance positions in two active CCAP counties, a portion of these funds was used to provide technical assistance cost share funding in the amount of $23,958. The remainder of the state appropriations was allocated to local districts for BMP installation. At their August 23, 2012 meeting, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission allocated $180,554 to be distributed to interested districts according to the parameters outlined in 02 NCAC 59H .0103. The districts that received an allocation of CCAP state funds in FY2013 are displayed in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Soil and Water Conservation Districts Receiving CCAP State Appropriated Funds in FY2013



In addition to the State appropriation, unencumbered BMP implementation grant funds were allocated to participating districts. The funding sources for these grants include the NC Environmental Enhancement Grant Program and the Clean Water Management Trust Funds. These funds, in combination with the recurring state appropriation, allowed this program to address water quality concerns and reach citizens across the state.

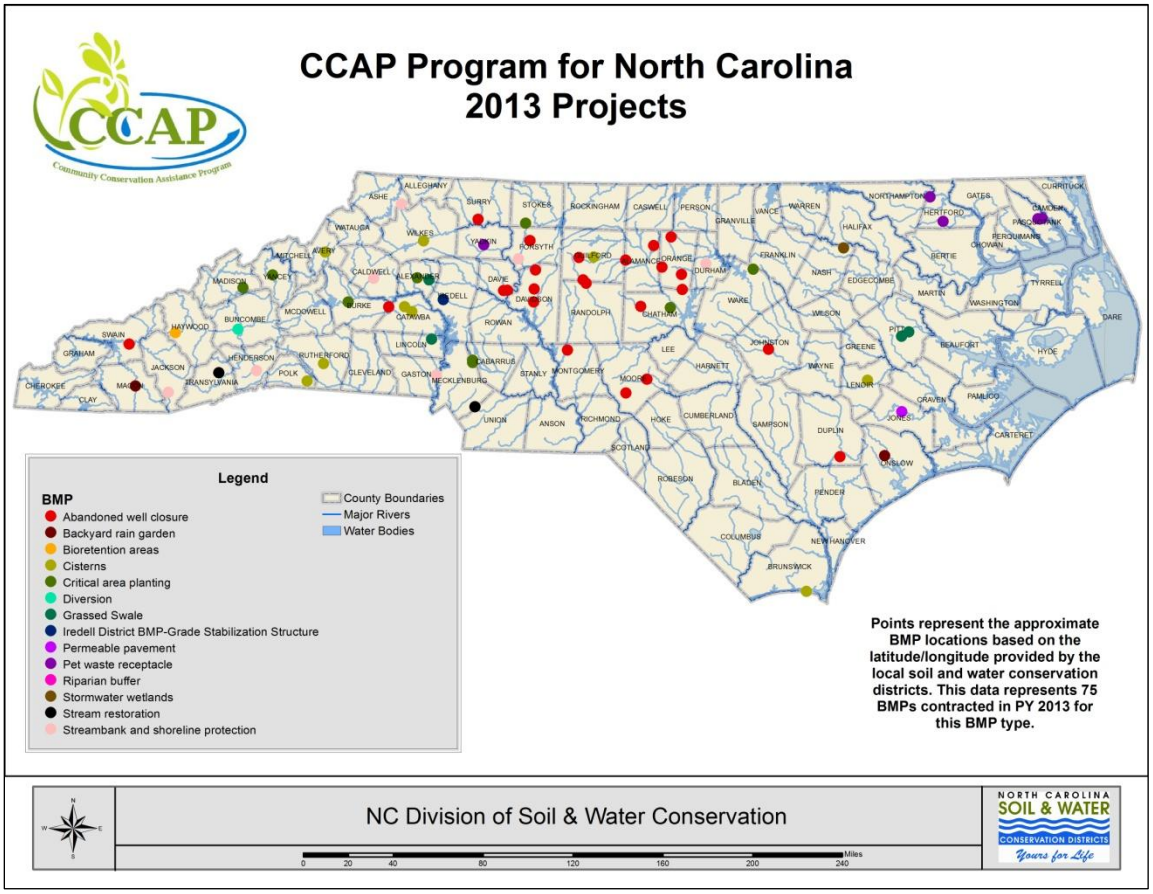
Significant advancements in program development and project installations were seen during this sixth program year.

Program highlights and accomplishments in FY2013 include the following:

- The CCAP Advisory Committee met twice during FY2013 to provide oversight and technical review of the program. This group was active in the following areas:
    - Reviewing and recommending to the Commission Job Approval Authority to Registered Landscape Architects (RLAs) for the following practices: raingardens, backyard wetlands, and cisterns.
    - Updating the Average Cost List for BMP cost share and making the recommendation to the Commission for adoption
    - Development of the Operations and Maintenance agreement for the Critical Area Planting standard
    - Updating the Detailed Implementation Plan for PY2013
    - Presentations by partnership organizations on the Urban Forestry grant program and Low Impact Development (LID) methods

- The membership of the CCAP Advisory Committee, as described in § 106-860, is shown in Appendix B.
- The CCAP Design Manual was updated, 35 copies printed, and made available at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/CCAP/ccapdesignmanual.html.
- 74 project contracts were submitted to encumber $180,554 as depicted in Figure 2.
- The job approval authority process continued to be improved and implemented to ensure district employees are certified to design and approve installation of CCAP BMPs. To date, 49 district employees have CCAP job approval authority for select conservation practices.

Figure 2: Soil and Water Conservation Districts Receiving CCAP State Appropriated Funds in FY2013



BMPs installed in FY2013 from all funding sources are included in the chart below:

Best Practice	Planned	
	Unit	Quantity
Abandoned well closure	Each	36
Backyard rain garden	Job	1
Bioretention areas	Square Feet	1,000
Cisterns	Gallons	22,507
Critical area planting	Square Feet	19,602
Permeable pavement	Square Feet	1,223
Pet waste receptacle	Each	12
Riparian buffer	Square Feet	582
Stormwater wetlands	Square Feet	14,841
Stream restoration	Feet	275
Streambank and shoreline protection	Feet	2,773

The N.C. Community Conservation Assistance Program is securing a future for Soil and Water Conservation Districts as North Carolina's landscape, community and pollutant sources change. Demand for the program from districts across the state continues to exceed the current funding. During FY2013, over $2.17 million was requested from the 74 participating districts.

Many existing water quality initiatives are geared towards new construction, such as Low Impact Development, the State's Erosion and Sediment Control statute, and design standards. CCAP is unique, in that it is a retrofit only program. The results illustrate the important accomplishment of the General Assembly in creating the only state-wide program that addresses non-point water pollution sources from already developed areas. In addition, CCAP will be a cost effective mechanism for implementing the Falls Lake and Jordan Lake Existing Development Rules.

Future program recommendations include:

- Increasing program funding to accommodate the existing project needs
- Increasing technical assistance funding to support district staff
- Increasing funding to provide additional engineering support
- Provide a recommendation to the Commission on the existing method of allocating funds to the local districts
- Continue the pilot program of new training and testing for BMP design and installation for employees' to obtain job approval authority
- Expanding the water quality benefits tool to measure the impact of all BMPs in reducing stormwater conveyed pollutants
- Expanding outreach efforts and distribution of materials statewide
- Expanding efforts by the CCAP Advisory Committee to increase program recognition and support through partnership opportunities

For more information on the CCAP, please refer to the appendices:

- Appendix A: CCAP PY2013 Detailed Implementation Plan
- Appendix B: CCAP Advisory Committee members for 2013 Program Year
- Appendix C: Photographs of selected projects
- Appendix D: List of 2013 Contracts

APPENDIX A
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
PY2013

All practices defined below are to be maintained by the landowner of a single-family residence for a five-year period; all other types of properties are to be maintained by the landowner for a 10-year period.

Definition of Practices

(1) Abandoned well closure is the sealing and permanent closure of a supply well no longer in use. This practice serves to prevent entry of contaminated surface water, animals, debris or other foreign substances into the well. It also serves to eliminate the physical hazards of an open hole to people, animals and machinery.

(2) Bioretention area is the use of plants and soils for removal of pollutants from stormwater runoff. Bioretention can also be effective in reducing peak runoff rates, runoff volumes and recharging groundwater by infiltrating runoff. Bioretention areas are intended to treat impervious surface areas of greater than 2500 ft^2.

(3) A backyard rain garden is a shallow depression in the ground that captures runoff from a driveway, roof, or lawn and allows it to soak into the ground, rather than running across roads, capturing pollutants and delivering them to a stream. Backyard rain gardens are intended to treat impervious surface areas of less than 2500 ft^2.

(4) Stormwater wetland means a constructed system that mimics the functions of natural wetlands and is designed to mitigate the impacts of stormwater quality and quantity. Stormwater wetlands are intended to treat impervious surface areas of greater than 2500 ft^2.

(5) Backyard wetlands are constructed systems that mimic the functions of natural wetlands. They can temporarily store, filter and clean runoff from driveways, roofs and lawns, and thereby improve water quality. The wetland should be expected to retain water or remain saturated for two to three weeks. Backyard wetlands are intended to treat impervious surface areas of less than 2500 ft^2.

(6) A cistern is a system of collection and diversion practices to prevent stormwater from flowing across impervious areas, collecting sediment and reaching the storm drains. Benefits may include the reduction of stormwater runoff thereby reducing the opportunity for pollution to enter the storm drainage system.

(7) A critical area planting means an area of highly erodible land, which cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment on which permanent perennial vegetative cover is established and protected to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation and improved surface water quality.

(8) A diversion means a channel constructed across a slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side to control drainage by diverting excess water from an area to improve water quality.

(9) A grassed swale consists of a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, and sedimentation and improve the quality of surface water pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(10) Impervious surface conversion means the removal of impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick and stone. These materials seal surfaces, repel water and prevent precipitation from infiltrating soils. Removal of these impervious materials, when combined with permeable pavement or vegetation establishment, is intended to reduce stormwater runoff rate and volume, as well as associated pollutants transported from the site by stormwater runoff.

(11) Permeable pavement means materials that are designed to allow water to flow through them and thus reduce the imperviousness of traffic surfaces, such as patios, walkways, sidewalks, driveways and parking areas.

(12) A pet waste receptacle means a receptacle designed to encourage pet owners to pick up after animals in parks, neighborhoods and apartment complexes so as to prevent waste from being transported off-site by stormwater runoff.

(13) A riparian buffer means an area adjacent to a stream where a permanent, long-lived vegetative cover (sod, shrubs, trees or a combination of vegetation types) is established to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate and sediment-attached substances.

(14) A stream restoration system means the use of bioengineering practices, native material revetments, channel stability structures and/or the restoration or management of riparian corridors to protect upland BMPs, restore the natural function of the stream corridor and improve water quality by reducing sedimentation to streams from streambanks.

(15) Streambank and shoreline protection means the use of vegetation to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries or excavated channels against scour and erosion.

(16) Marsh sills protect estuarine shorelines from erosion, combining engineered structures with natural vegetation to maintain, restore, or enhance the shoreline's natural habitats. A sill is a coast-parallel, long or short structure built with the objective of reducing the wave action on the shoreline by forcing wave breaking over the sill. Sills are used to provide protection for existing coastal marshes, or to retain sandy fill between the sill and the eroding shoreline, to establish suitable elevations for the restoration or establishment of coastal marsh and/or riparian vegetation.

(17) A structural stormwater conveyance includes various techniques to divert runoff from paved surfaces where a vegetated diversion is not feasible. The purpose is to direct stormwater runoff (sheet flow or concentrated) away from a direct discharge point and divert it to an approved BMP or naturally vegetated area capable of removing nutrients through detention, filtration, or infiltration.

Appendix B – Standing Members of the 2013 Community Conservation Assistance Program Advisory Committee

	First Name	Last Name	Agency	Email
1	Pat	Harris	Division of Soil & Water Conservation	pat.harris@ncagr.gov
2	Bill	Hart	NC Assoc. of Soil & Water Conservation	bhart1102@yahoo.com
3	Mitch	Woodward	NCSU Cooperative Extension Service	mdwoodward01@gmail.com
4	Latonia	Strickland	NC Association of County Commissioners	latonia.strickland@ncacc.org
**5	Beth	Brown	NC League of Municipalities	eabrown@townofhopemills.com
**6	Jerry	Raynor	USDA - NRCS	Jerry.Raynor@nc.usda.gov
7	Kacy	Cook	Wildlife Resources Commission	kacy.cook@ncwildlife.org
8	Mike	Doxey	NC District Employees Association	mdoxey@co.currituck.nc.us
9	Wayne	Howell	NC Association of RC&D Councils	wayne.howell@nc.nacdnet.net
**10	Bradley	Bennett	Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, Stormwater Programs	bradley.bennett@ncdenr.gov
11	Alan	Moore	NC Forest Service	alan.moore@ncagr.gov
**12	Matt	Poling	Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources	matt.poling@ncdenr.gov
**13	Steve	Trowell	Division of Coastal Management	steve.trowell@ncdenr.gov
14	Jeff	Bruton	Division of Water Resources	jeff.bruton@ncdenr.gov
15	Brad	Barringer	Land Improvement Contractors (LICA)	brsbrad@ctc.net

** denotes a change in member representation

Appendix C – Photographs of CCAP Best Management Practices

Catawba County – cistern system at municipal building

Permeable pavement – Jones County

Before – stream stabilization project Caldwell County

After – stream stabilization project Caldwell County

Stormwater wetland – New Hanover County

Grassed swale – Wake County

Appendix D - PY 2013 CCAP Program
List of Contracts by District

County	Best Management	Cost
ALAMANCE		
01-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
01-2013-504	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
ALEXANDER		
02-2013-501	Critical area planting	$1,409
02-2013-502	Critical area planting	$8,247
	Grassed Swale	$713
ASHE		
05-2013-501	Streambank and shoreline	$1,561
AVERY		
06-2013-501	Cisterns	$2,153
BRUNSWICK		
10-2013-501	Cisterns	$2,700
BUNCOMBE		
11-2013-501	Diversion	$3,302
BURKE		
12-2013-005	Backyard rain garden	$2,138
	Critical area planting	$18
12-2013-007	Abandoned well closure	$1,101
CABARRUS		
13-2013-501	Critical area planting	$101
13-2013-502	Critical area planting	$2,355
CALDWELL		
14-2013-517	Streambank and shoreline	$3,059
CARTERET		
16-2013-601	Permeable pavement	$1,703
CATAWBA		
18-2013-501	Cisterns	$1,860
18-2013-502	Cisterns	$2,055
CHATHAM		
19-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
19-2013-503	Critical area planting	$1,000
CURRITUCK		
27-2013-501	Backyard rain garden	$1,034
27-2013-502	Backyard rain garden	$686

Appendix D - PY 2013 CCAP Program
List of Contracts by District

County	Best Management	Cost
DAVIDSON		
29-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,320
29-2013-502	Abandoned well closure	$1,200
29-2013-503	Abandoned well closure	$510
DAVIE		
30-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
30-2013-502	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
DUPLIN		
31-2013-002	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
DURHAM		
32-2013-506	Streambank and shoreline	$3,867
FORSYTH		
34-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$900
34-2013-502	Abandoned well closure	$900
34-2013-505	Streambank and shoreline	$1,430
GASTON		
36-2013-511	Streambank and shoreline	$3,571
GUILFORD		
41-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
41-2013-502	Cisterns	$1,659
41-2013-504	Abandoned well closure	$456
HAYWOOD		
44-2013-501	Bioretention areas	$11,250
HENDERSON		
45-2013-502	Riparian buffer	$427
	Streambank and shoreline	$3,000
HERTFORD		
46-2013-501	Pet waste receptacle	$800
46-2013-502	Pet waste receptacle	$700
IREDELL		
49-2013-010	Iredell District BMP-Grade	$2,772
JACKSON		
50-2013-501	Streambank and shoreline	$2,072
JOHNSTON		
51-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$3,000

Appendix D - PY 2013 CCAP Program
List of Contracts by District

County	Best Management	Cost
JONES		
52-2013-501	Permeable pavement	$2,191
LENOIR		
54-2013-501	Cisterns	$1,500
LINCOLN		
55-2013-504	Grassed Swale	$3,239
MACON		
56-2013-501	Backyard rain garden	$1,262
MADISON		
57-2013-501	Critical area planting	$1,534
MECKLENBURG		
60-2013-002	Riparian buffer	$1,313
	Stream restoration	$1,639
MONTGOMERY		
62-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
MOORE		
63-2013-500	Abandoned well closure	$1,400
63-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,400
NASH		
64-2013-501	Stormwater wetlands	$26,250
ONSLOW		
67-2013-002	Backyard rain garden	$2,925
ORANGE		
68-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,100
68-2013-502	Abandoned well closure	$450
68-2013-503	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
68-2013-504	Abandoned well closure	$790
PASQUOTANK		
70-2013-501	Pet waste receptacle	$1,175
70-2013-502	Pet waste receptacle	$1,175
PITT		
74-2013-501	Grassed Swale	$501
74-2013-502	Grassed Swale	$1,580
POLK		
75-2013-503	Cisterns	$1,882

Appendix D - PY 2013 CCAP Program
List of Contracts by District

County	Best Management	Cost
RANDOLPH		
76-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$2,673
RUTHERFORD		
81-2013-505	Cisterns	$2,931
STOKES		
85-2013-501	Critical area planting	$2,426
SURRY		
86-2013-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
86-2013-502	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
SWAIN		
87-2013-503	Stormwater wetlands	$725
87-2013-504	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
TRANSYLVANIA		
88-2013-501	Stream restoration	$1,624
WAKE		
92-2013-501	Cisterns	$1,973
	Critical area planting	$366
WILKES		
97-2013-501	Cisterns	$2,363
YADKIN		
99-2013-006	Pet waste receptacle	$2,049
YANCEY		
00-2013-501	Critical area planting	$2,250

AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
§ 139-60
FISCAL YEAR 2013 ANNUAL REPORT
January 2014

Background

The North Carolina Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program was authorized through Session Law 2011-145, and became effective on July 1, 2011. This program, referred to as AgWRAP, was established to assist farmers and landowners in doing any one or more of the following:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage;
- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to conserve and protect water resources;
- Increase water use efficiency;
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes.

Public benefit of this program is achieved by the following:

- Reducing competition for water resources by public users
- Improving the efficient use of water while enabling the industry to produce food, fiber and other agricultural products
- Preparing the agricultural industry to weather future droughts
- Generating and protecting local jobs in agriculture and agribusiness

AgWRAP is administered by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission and implemented through local soil and water conservation districts. The commission meets with stakeholders to gather input on AgWRAP's development and administration through the AgWRAP Review Committee. AgWRAP has received the following state appropriations:

- FY2012: $1,000,000
- FY2013: $500,000
- FY2014: $1,000,000; $500,000 available statewide, $500,000 limited to counties affected by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) settlement: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey counties.

Up to 15% of these funds can be used by the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and districts to provide technical and engineering assistance, and to administer the program.

In FY2012, the commission conducted a statewide request for applications for building new agricultural water supply ponds, funding 21 new ponds. In addition, the commission allocated $510,000 to 69 soil and water conservation districts who requested an allocation for other AgWRAP practices including: agricultural pond repair/retrofit, agricultural pond sediment removal, conservation irrigation conversion, micro-irrigation system, and well. In FY2013, the commission allocated all available funds through a statewide request for applications for building new agricultural water supply ponds, funding 28 new ponds.

Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Goals

I. Conduct a competitive state allocation for new agricultural water supply ponds

a. *Fund a minimum of one pond per geographic area: Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Mountains*

In FY2013, the commission funded ponds in each geographic area of the state:

- Coastal Plain: 11 ponds
- Piedmont: 13 ponds
- Mountains: 4 ponds

b. *Fund a minimum of 25 ponds with this year's appropriated funding.*

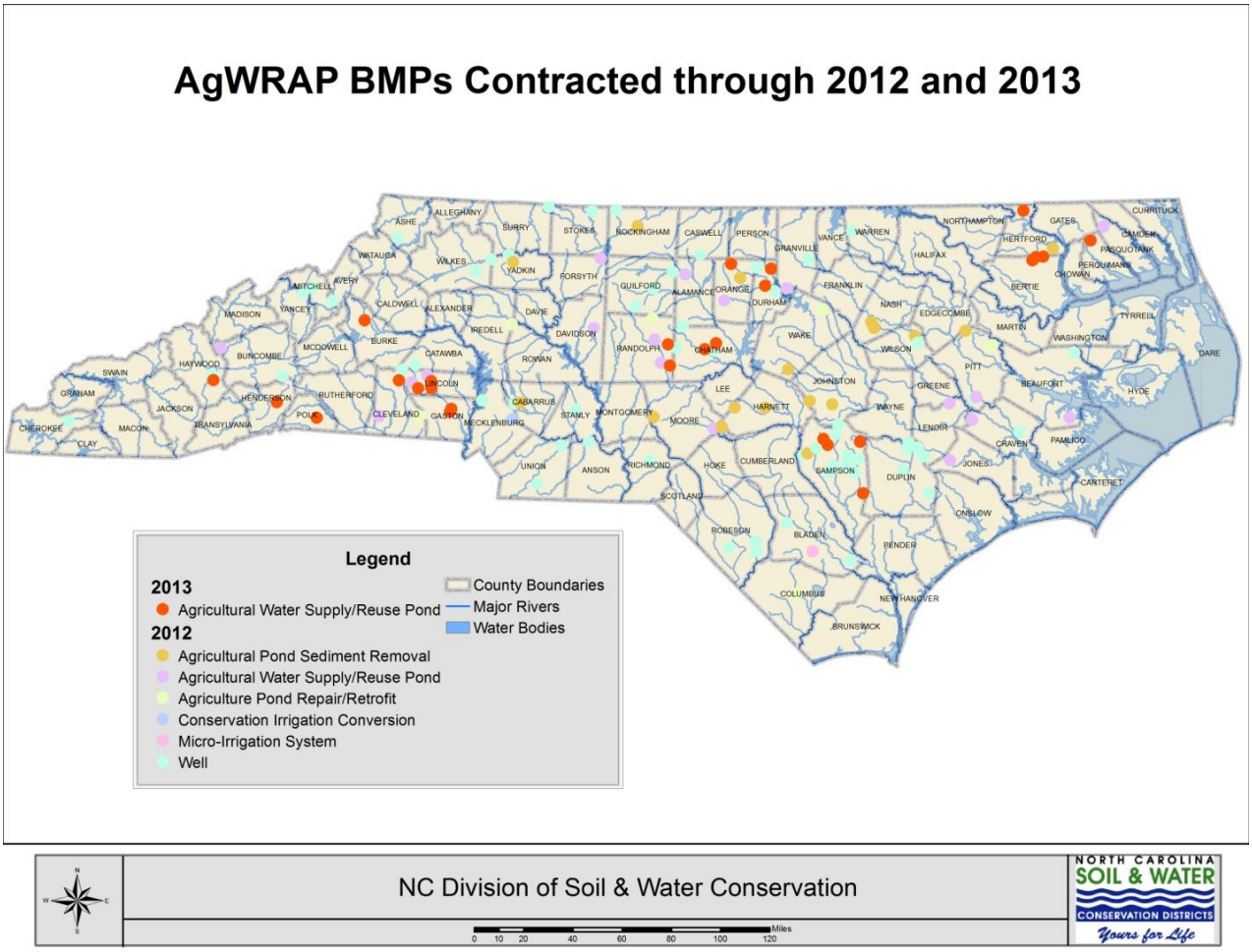
In FY2013, the commission conducted a statewide request for applications for building new agricultural water supply ponds with all AgWRAP BMP funding appropriated for the year. With the funding available, all 28 applications received for new ponds were approved, and design and construction of these water supplies is underway. During calendar year 2013, three contracts were canceled for various reasons. Figure 1 depicts the contracts encumbered using FY2012 and FY2013 AgWRAP funding.

c. *Distribute funding for ponds among the following agricultural sectors identified in the Protecting Agriculture Water Resources in North Carolina Strategic Plan (February 2011): aquaculture, field crops, forestry, fruit and vegetable, green industry, livestock and poultry (and forages and drinking water for same).*

In FY2013, the commission funded ponds in the following agricultural sectors:

- Aquaculture: 0 (no applicants)
- Field crops: 10 ponds
- Forestry: 0 (no applicants)
- Fruit and vegetable: 10 ponds
- Green industry: 2 ponds
- Livestock and poultry: 6 ponds

Figure 1: FY2012 and FY2013 Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program Contracts



II. Implement the Job Approval Authority Process for AgWRAP BMPs

a. Expand job approval categories for investigations and evaluations.

In FY2013, the commission continued to approve employee requests for the following job approval categories:

- Pond site assessment
- Sediment removal planning and certification
- Water needs assessments

To date, 25 conservation partnership employees representing 19 districts have obtained job approval authority for one or more of the categories above.

b. Provide training for district employees to earn job approval.

In FY2013, the division conducted training on the approved job approval categories. Pond site assessment and water needs assessment training was provided during the Conservation Employee Workshop in August 2012.

c. Maintain the job approval database.

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation maintains a database including the categories described above. A list of employees with job approval authority is available at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional_development/JAA.html

III. Conduct training for districts

a. Continue to train districts on the program.

The division continued to provide training opportunities on the program, in FY2013 focusing on technical trainings about planning for ponds and water needs assessment as described in II.b. above. During the remainder of FY2013, the division's technical services staff provided training and support by working directly with district employees when reviewing potential pond sites. In partnership with the Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the division will be hosting a series of trainings in FY2014 for district employees to gain skills for planning a pond, pond construction oversight and pond design.

b. Provide training and support on the North Carolina Water Needs Assessment Tool.

On August 16, 2012, as part of the Conservation Employees Training, the division organized a three hour training titled *Completing an Agricultural Water Use Assessment*. This session was led by the tool's developer, Dr. Garry Grabow, Associate Professor and Extension Leader for the NCSU Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

c. Maintaining the AgWRAP website

The division continues to maintain the AgWRAP information online for easy access for districts, cooperators and partners. AgWRAP program information including BMP policies can be accessed at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/AgWRAP/index.html. Practice planning and design tools, including the Water Needs Assessment Tool for NC described above, are available at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/tech/onlinedesigntools.html.

IV. Additional Activities

a. Micro-irrigation Checklist and Outreach

Division staff, NRCS Staff and NCSU worked on a cooperative effort to draft a micro-irrigation checklist for designers to utilize when planning new systems to be eligible for cost share assistance. This group developed the checklist to ensure that designs would meet the NRCS standard.

In addition to the checklist, these partners held two trainings to discuss the basic requirements of the NRCS standard. On August 14, 2012, as part of the Conservation Employees Training, the division coordinated a 2 ½ hour session titled *Irrigation Design Introductory Class*. This training

was led by Terri Ruch, NRCS State Engineer and Hamid Farahani, NRCS Water Management Engineer.

On November 7th, 2012, the 48th Annual Irrigation Conference covered the following topics as an additional outreach effort to address the design requirements of micro-irrigation systems:

- *Cost Share Programs for Micro-irrigation Systems in North Carolina Micro-irrigation Checklist; Terry Ruch, NC NRCS, Hamid Farahani, NRCS*
- Design of Micro-irrigation Systems to Meet Cost-Share Requirements;
  Erwin Newell, Keith Sawyer, and Dave Elliot, BB Hobbs Company, Inc.
- Micro-irrigation for Fruits and Vegetables;
  David and Jason Graham, Gra-Mac Distributing Company
- Variable Rate Irrigation with Center Pivots;
  Ken Stone, Coastal Plains Soil, Water, and Plant Research Center

AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Pictures of selected practices

Irrigation well

Agricultural water supply/reuse pond

Agricultural pond sediment removal

ATTACHMENT 8A

North Carolina Division of
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION

INTERNAL USE ONLY:
Appointed / Elected Seat
Current Term: 10-14

DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1614 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1614
919.733.2302 • www.ncagr.gov/sw/

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

Complete and send 1 copy to the address above; keep a copy for your file

The supervisors of the Burke Soil and Water Conservation District of Burke County, North Carolina have recommended the individual listed below for APPOINTMENT as a district supervisor in accordance with N.C.G.S. 139-7 for a term of office commencing 3-14 and ending 12-14 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Nancy W. Taylor.

Name of nominee: Julius "Wayne" Packard
Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 115 Parkland St. Morganton N.C. 28655
Email address of nominee: wayne.packard51@gmail.com
Home phone: 828-437-1943
Mobile phone: 828-443-5951
Business phone:
Occupation: Retired NCDACS Plant Prot Specialist
Age: 62
Education: BA & MA Biology
Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Mutter High County Christmas Trees / Church Usher
Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications:
Several Board of Equalization & Review
Other pertinent information:

Is nominee willing to attend a training session within the first year after appointment? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the nominee been contacted to determine their willingness to serve? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to the nominee? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in local district meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in Area meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in State meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑

Signatures

I hereby certify that the board of supervisors considered the Guiding Principles for Supervisor Nomination for Appointment shown on the reverse of this nomination form when selecting the above supervisor candidate for nomination.

X William F. Beaver III — 5 Feb '14
SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) — Date
Printed name: William F. Beaver, III

This recommendation has been considered and approved by a majority of the members of the board of supervisors and entered in the official minutes of the board.

X William F. Beaver III — 5 Feb '14
SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) — Date
Printed name: William F. Beaver, III

X J. Wayne Packard — 2-5-14
Individual recommended for appointment — Date
Printed name: J. Wayne Packard

RECEIVED
FEB 19 2014
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

ATTACHMENT 8A

NANCY WARD TAYLOR
P.O. BOX 688
MORGANTON, NC 28655

TO: **WILLIAM BROWN**

FROM: **NANCY TAYLOR**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

RE: **RESIGNATION**

As you know, I have accepted a new job as the Executive Director for the Community Foundation of Burke County. With these new responsibilities, I find that I an unable to continue serving as a Supervisor for the Burke Soil & Water Conservation District. I will resign my position effective October 2013.

It has been an honor to work with you and the rest of my fellow supervisors. I have learned so much about conservation, but even more about the wonderful county we serve. I would be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge the extraordinary work of our staff. They are the reason we are able to move forward on so many fronts and achieve so many of the goals that were established for our district.

If you need any further documentation from me, please just let me know.

Again, my thanks to all.

ATTACHMENT 8A

North Carolina Division of
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION

INTERNAL USE ONLY:
Appointed / Elected Seat
Current Term: 10-14

DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1614 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1614
919.733.2302 • www.ncagr.gov/sw/

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

Complete and send 1 copy to the address above; keep a copy for your file

The supervisors of the Rutherford Soil and Water Conservation District of Rutherford County, North Carolina have recommended the individual listed below for APPOINTMENT as a district supervisor in accordance with N.C.G.S. 139-7 for a term of office commencing 3/2014 and ending 12/2014 to fill the expired or un-expired term of James F. Hollifield.

Name of nominee: Robin Smith
Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 433 South Creek Rd. Bostic, NC 28018
Email address of nominee: robinfsmith@gmail.com
Home phone: 828-245-1744
Mobile phone: 828-429-7822
Business phone: 828-245-0658
Occupation: Media Coordinator
Age: 51
Education: Masters of Education, Masters of Library Science
Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Leader of Media Coordinators PLC's, AP Academy Advisory Council,
Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: BearFoot 5K co-director
PTO President, Local School Advisory Board
Other pertinent information: I have always had an interest in environmental issues because I lived my entire life on a black angus cattle farm with a father whose career was Ruth. Co. Forest Ranger. My son is now majoring in Environmental Science so my interest is even more avid.

Is nominee willing to attend a training session within the first year after appointment? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the nominee been contacted to determine their willingness to serve? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to the nominee? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in local district meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in Area meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in State meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑

Signatures

I hereby certify that the board of supervisors considered the Guiding Principles for Supervisor Nomination for Appointment shown on the reverse of this nomination form when selecting the above supervisor candidate for nomination.

X Shannon A. Buckley — 2-27-14
SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) — Date
Printed name: Shannon A. Buckley

This recommendation has been considered and approved by a majority of the members of the board of supervisors and entered in the official minutes of the board.

X Shannon A. Buckley — 2-27-14
SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) — Date
Printed name: Shannon A. Buckley

X Robin F. Smith — 2/27/14
Individual recommended for appointment — Date
Printed name: Robin F Smith

ATTACHMENT 8A

Missy York

From: JIM HOLLIFIELD [jfholli@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 01, 2014 6:31 PM
To: Missy York
Cc: jfholli@bellsouth.net
Subject: Resignation from Ruthereford county board of supervisors

To the Rutherford county soil and water board of supervisiors

This is a follow up letter of my verbal announcement in November of my resignation from the board of supervisors
to be effective Dec 31 2013.
I am now severed from the board but I would like to thank each one on the board and staff for the friendships and the
support especially the years I was chairman and served in various offices in the area and state.It has been a great priv
ledge to work with such a committed group and I believe we accomplished many worthwhile projects for the people
of Rutherrford county and N.C.
Keep up the good work and I will be available if I can be of any value.

Thanks very much
Jim Hollifield

ATTACHMENT 8A

INTERNAL USE ONLY:
Appointed / Elected Seat
Current Term: 10-14

North Carolina Division of
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1614 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1614
919.733.2302 • www.ncagr.gov/sw/

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

Complete and send 1 copy to the address above; keep a copy for your file

The supervisors of the CHEROKEE COUNTY Soil and Water Conservation District of CHEROKEE County, North Carolina have recommended the individual listed below for APPOINTMENT as a district supervisor in accordance with N.C.G.S. 139-7 for a term of office commencing April 1, 2014 and ending November 30, 2014 to fill the expired or un-expired term of J. B. REEVES.

Name of nominee: Chad E. Decker
Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: POB 273, Murphy, North Carolina 28906
Email address of nominee: deckerstone@frontier.com
Home phone: (828) 835-8576
Mobile phone: (828) 361-2060
Business phone: (828) 837-8050 or 5753
Occupation: Owner - Decker Stone Company
Age: 42
Education: Bachelor of Science/Natural Resources Mgt. @ Western Carolina University
Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Business owner
Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: YCC Crew Leader/USFS
Other pertinent information: 1995-96 Ag Cost Share Technician/Cherokee County SWCD

Is nominee willing to attend a training session within the first year after appointment? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the nominee been contacted to determine their willingness to serve? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to the nominee? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in local district meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in Area meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in State meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑

Signatures

I hereby certify that the board of supervisors considered the Guiding Principles for Supervisor Nomination for Appointment shown on the reverse of this nomination form when selecting the above supervisor candidate for nomination.

X Edgar A Wood III — March 11, 2014
SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) — Date
Printed name: Edgar A. Wood, III

This recommendation has been considered and approved by a majority of the members of the board of supervisors and entered in the official minutes of the board.

X Edgar A Wood III — March 11, 2014
SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) — Date
Printed name: Edgar A. Wood, III

X Chad E Decker — 3/17/14
Individual recommended for appointment — Date
Printed name: Chad E. Decker

Version 11.20.13

http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/districts/forms.html

ATTACHMENT 8A

December 17,2013

Cherokee Co. Soil and Water Board Members:

Fellow board members, I would like to submit my letter of resignation as a board member of the Cherokee Co. Soil and Water Board. I have sincerely enjoyed my term of service on this board and have enjoyed and valued the association with members here and across the state.

Best regards,

J.B. Reeves

J. B. Reeves

NCACSP Supervisor Contracts
Soil and Water Conservation Commission

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Alleghany	03-2014-003	Bobby Evans	Stock Trail, Well, Tank, HUA & Livestock Exclusion	$ 25,014	
Lee	53-2014-005	John Gross	Grassed waterway	$ 218	Revision
Lee	53-2014-008	John Gross	Terrace	$ 356	Revision
Mitchell	61-2014-008	Ed Terrell	Stream Crossing	$ 2,766	
Pender	71-2014-004	WW. Murrell, Jr.	Cropland Conversion-Grass	$ 1,809	
Pender	71-2014-005	WW. Murrell, Jr.	Cropland Conversion-Grass	$ 2,781	
Polk	75-2014-267	Frank Smith	Livestock Exclusion	$ 24,999	
Robeson	78-2014-013	Walter K. McGirt	3 Year Conservation Tillage	$ 11,786	
Sampson	82-2014-008	Dennis R. Waller	Cropland Conversion	$ 3,218	Wayne SWCD Supervisor
Wayne	96-2014-008	John Yelverton	Litter Spreader	$ 7,500	

Total Number of Supervisor Contracts: 10
Total **$ 80,447**

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the _Alleghany_____Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: NC ACSP

Best management practice: Stock Trail, Well, Tanks, HUA & Livestock Exclusion

Contract number: 03-2014-003

Contract amount: ~~$ 24,014~~ 25,014 typo 2 H.

Score on priority ranking sheet: 105

Cost Share Rate : 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1 out of 1

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: Bobby Evans

Bobby P Evans
(District Supervisor's signature)

2-11-14
Date

Approved by:

W. Paul Edwards
(District Chairperson's signature)

2-11-14
Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

_____
(SWCC Chairperson's signature)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

_____
Date

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

ATTACHMENT 8B

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Lee Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSP

Best management practice: GWW

Contract number: 53-2014-005 Contract amount: $ 218.00 Revision

Score on priority ranking sheet: 475

Cost Share Rate : 75% If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1 of 6

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: John Gross

(District Supervisor's signature) 1/14/14 Date

Approved by:

(District Chairperson's signature) 1/14/14 Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature) Date
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

ATTACHMENT 8B
NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Lee Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSP

Best management practice: Terrace

Contract number: 53-2014-008 Contract amount: $ 356.00

Revision

Score on priority ranking sheet: 400

Cost Share Rate : 75% If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 4 of 6

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: John Gross

(District Supervisor's signature) Date 1/14/14

Approved by:

(District Chairperson's signature) Date 1/14/14

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature) Date
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ATTACHMENT 8B
NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the ___Mitchell_____Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: cs

Best management practice: stream crossing

Contract number: 61-2014-008 Contract amount: $ 2766.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 33

Cost Share Rate : 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1/10

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? yes

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Lack of funding (others more expensive) Also,(II) funds could be used in this contract not the others

Supervisor name: Ed Terrell

Ed Terrell
(District Supervisor's signature)

1-30-14
Date

Approved by:

(District Chairperson's signature)

1-30-14
Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

Date

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC-ACSP-1B
(07/2011)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the PENDER Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a grant under the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed grant is for the installation of the following best management practices to improve water quality and/or reduce sedimentation.

Best Management Practices: CROPLAND CONVERSION-GRASS

Contract Number: 71-14-004-02 Contract Amount $ 1809

Score on priority ranking sheet: 47

Cost Share Rate: 75% (90%) other _____ (circle one)

Relative Rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1st out of 4

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts were denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts.: _____

Supervisor Name: W.W. Murrell Jr

(District Supervisor's Signature) 3/3/14 Date

Approved by:

Don M. Rawls
(District Chairperson's Signature) 3/3/14 Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a grant.

_____ _____
(SWCC Chairperson's Signature) Date
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

RECEIVED
MAR 06 2014
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC-ACSP-1B
(07/2011)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the PENDER Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a grant under the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed grant is for the installation of the following best management practices to improve water quality and/or reduce sedimentation.

Best Management Practices: CROPLAND CONVERSION-GRASS

Contract Number: 71-14-005-02 Contract Amount $ 2781

Score on priority ranking sheet: 46

Cost Share Rate: 75% (90%) other _____ (circle one)

Relative Rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1st out of 2

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts were denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts.: _____

Supervisor Name: WW MURRELL,JR

WW Murrell — 3/3/14
(District Supervisor's Signature) Date

Approved by:

Don M. Rawls — 3/3/14
(District Chairperson's Signature) Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a grant.

_____ _____
(SWCC Chairperson's Signature) Date
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

RECEIVED
MAR 06 2014
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

ATTACHMENT 8B

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the _Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: NCACSP

Best management practice: Livestock Exclusion

Contract number: 75-2014-267 Contract amount: $ 24,999

Score on priority ranking sheet: 53 points

Cost Share Rate: 90 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason: Farmland Preservation District Participate

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): first out of five applicants

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? no

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: Frank Smith

Frank Smith
(District Supervisor's signature)

1-2-2014
Date

Approved by:

X Richard Smith
(District Chairperson's signature)

1-14-2014
Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

Date

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

ATTACHMENT 8B
NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the **Robeson** Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: **NCACSP**

Best management practice: **3 Year Conservation Tillage – Grain, Nutrient Management**

Contract number: **78-2014-013-08** Contract amount: **$11,786.00**

Score on priority ranking sheet: **220**

Cost Share Rate : **100 %** If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason: **Both of these practices are incentives**

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered):**1**

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? **No**

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: **Walter K. McGirt**

Walter K McGirt
(District Supervisor's signature)

2/4/2014
Date

Approved by:

Jay Littlee
(District Chairperson's signature)

2/4/2014
Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

Date

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

ATTACHMENT 8B
NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACS

Best management practice: Cropland Conversion

Contract number: 82-2014-008 Contract amount: $3218.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 250 pts.

Cost Share Rate : 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): Ranked 3rd out of 4 considered during that batching period.
Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: Dennis R. Waller

X Dennis R. Waller
(District Supervisor's signature)

2/27/14
Date

Approved by:

L Craig Thuto
(District Chairperson's signature)

2-27-14
Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

Date

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

RECEIVED
MAR 06 2014
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: Cost Share

Best management practice: Litter Spreader

Contract number: 96-2014-008 Contract amount: $ 7,500.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 70

Cost Share Rate : 53.57% If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason: **Board has a cap of $7,500.00 for Litter Spreaders**

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 5th out of 6

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: John Yelverton

John D Yelverton — 2/26/14
(District Supervisor's signature) Date

Approved by:

Ronald W Park — 2/26/14
(District Chairperson's signature) Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature) Date
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

ATTACHMENT 8C

SWCC Job Approval Authority Recommendations

March 19th, 2014

The following individuals have submitted a request to obtain Commission Job Approval Authority for the respective categories.

1. Pond Site Assessment
   Kenny Ray – Orange Soil and Water Conservation District
   Todd Roberts – Orange Soil and Water Conservation District

Mr. Ray and Mr. Roberts have successfully completed the requirements and have acquired confirmation of demonstrated technical proficiency from a Division engineer; therefore I recommend that their job approval authority requests be approved.

MAILING ADDRESS
Division of Soil and Water Conservation
1614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

Telephone: 919-733-2302
Fax Number: 919-733-3559

LOCATION
Archdale Building
512 N. Salisbury Street, Suite 504
Raleigh, NC 27604

Technical Specialist Designation Recommendations

March 19, 2014

1. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission has authority to designate water quality technical specialists based upon specific criteria and procedures (15A NCAC 06H .0101). This authority extends to individuals who have been assigned approval authority by USDA NRCS, NC Cooperative Extension, Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the Division. District staff is assigned the approval authority by the USDA NRCS. This process allows for each agency personnel to ensure an employee not only has completed the training requirements, but has also demonstrated proficiency prior to obtaining a technical specialist designation.

   As Associate Dean for Extension in NCSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director of Cooperative Extension Service, Dr. Joe Zublena has requested that the following employees receive the Waste Utilization/Nutrient Management designation.

   Deanna Wagner – Davidson CES Ethan Henderson – Buncombe CES
   Daniel Hedgecock – NCSU Department of Soil Science

   All employees have successfully completed the required training; therefore I recommend that these designations are approved.

2. Individuals who are not employees of the above mentioned agencies or who are professional engineers must submit a completed application to seek designation. The Division has received an application from Ms. Amanda Harris requesting designation for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management.

   Pursuant to the education and training requirements of this rule, I recommend the Commission approve this designation request.

State of North Carolina
NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Division of Soil and Water Conservation

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS A "TECHNICAL SPECIALIST"
(Pursuant to 15A NCAC 2T .0100, 15A NCAC 6F & 15A NCAC 6H)

Applicant's Name Amanda Harris Home Phone # 252-338-6476

Business Name Parkway Ag Supply, LLC Work Phone # 252-264-3757

Mailing Address 647 Chapanoke Road

City Hertford State NC Zip 27944

Email mharris@parkwayag.com

I. Place a check (✓) mark by the category(s) for which you are seeking approval authority and indicate the years of experience in each category being sought. See Attachment 1 for a description of each category and the minimum requirements for designation.

✓	Designation Category	Category Code	Years of Experience
	Irrigation Equipment	(I)	
✓	Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management	(WUP/NM)	3
	Inorganic Nutrient Management	(INM)	
	Wettable Acres	(WA)	
	Runoff Controls	(RC)	
	Water Management	(WM)	
	Structural Animal Waste	(SD – Design) (SI – Inspection)	

II. List applicable education, registrations, certifications, etc. currently held.

Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science

III. Provide information on required training courses attended (See Technical Specialist Criteria).

Name of Training Course	Primary Instructor	Date(s) attended
Nutrient management by CES	David Crouse & Deanna Osmond	Dec. 12-16, 2011
PLAT Course	David Crouse & Deanna Osmond	Dec. 12-16, 2011
Conservation Planning With RUSLE	Jim Canterbury	Dec. 12-16, 2011
NC Nutrient Management Software	Joseph Hudyncia	Dec. 12-16, 2011

IV. Provide evidence of experience by each category sought. Types of documentation that are also accepted as evidence of experience can be Waste Utilization Plans, Nutrient Management Plans, and Irrigation Designs etc.

Category Code	Type of Facility/Operation	Relative Experience	County
WUP/NM	Poultry Litter Operations	Updating growers Nutrient management plans under James Parsons	Robeson/ Cumberland
WUP/NM	Swine Operations	Teaching classes for swine growers for waste management	Cumberland/Bladen/ Robeson/Scotland/ Duplin/Sampson
WUP/NM	Poultry & Swine Operations	Calibration of litter & irrigation equipment	Bladen/Cumberland

V. List three references for each category of authority sought. These references should be able to attest to your technical proficiency. (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Category Code	Name	Address	Phone
WUP /NM	James Parsons	165 Agriculture Dr. Kenansville, NC 28349	910-296-2143
WUP /NM	Lisa Childers	301 East Mountain Dr. Fayetteville, NC 28306	910-321-6880
WUP/NM	Raymond Meigs	647 Chapanoke Rd. Hertford, NC 27944	252-426-1161

VI. List your employment record for the past five years, starting with your current employer. (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Employer	Address	Phone	Start/End Date
Parkway Ag Supply	647 Chapanoke Rd Hertford, NC 27944	252-264-3757	Oct. 1, 2013 - Present
NCCES - Cumberland Co.	301 East Mountain Dr. Fayetteville, NC 28306	910-321-6860	March 1, 2011 - Sept. 30, 2013
NC Division of Marine Fisheries	1367 US 17 South Elizabeth City, NC 27909	252-264-3911	May 2010 - July 2010
Murphy Family Ventures	5752 US Hwy 117 S. Wallace, NC 28466	866-568-7326	May 2009 - July 2009

VI. Provide a copy of related school transcripts, degrees, certifications, etc.

I certify that the information provided above is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. In the event confirmation is needed in connection with my qualifications, I authorize employers, clients, educational institutions, associations, registration and licensing boards to furnish whatever detail is available concerning my qualifications.

Amanda Hamb
Applicant's Signature

2/4/14
Date

ATTACHMENT 9

PY2014 AgWRAP Application Summary

Over $1.3 was requested during this application period for eligible AgWRAP best management practices (BMP). A brief summary of the applications is listed below by BMP, and all sectors of agriculture are represented. The ranking formula is being reviewed by the AgWRAP Review Committee, and draft ranking options will be emailed to commission members in advance of the March 19, 2014 meeting.

New Ponds

Region	Applications received	BMP funds requested	Engineering funds requested	Total funds requested
Eastern	8	$150,000	$22,500	$172,500
Central	12	$159,000	$16,500	$175,500
Western*	34	$496,000	$84,000	$580,000
Total	**54**	**$805,000**	**$123,000**	**$928,000**

** Districts in the western region that are not TVA eligible districts requested $60,000.*

Pond repair/retrofits

Region	Applications received	BMP funds requested	Engineering funds requested	Total funds requested
Eastern	4	$60,000	$15,000	$75,000
Central	4	$60,000	$22,500	$82,500
Western*	12	$180,000	$45,000	$225,000
Total	**20**	**$300,000**	**$82,500**	**$382,500**

** Districts in the western region that are not TVA eligible districts requested $52,500.*

Pond sediment removal

Region	Applications received	BMP funds requested	Engineering funds requested	Total funds requested
Eastern	3	$16,000	0	$16,000
Central	7	$26,000	0	$26,000
Western*	7	$35,000	0	$35,000
Total	**20**	**$77,000**	**$0**	**$77,000**

** TVA eligible districts submitted all requests.*

Streamside pickup/Baseflow interceptor

TVA eligible districts submitted four applications for BMP construction requesting $23,902.

Micro-irrigation system

TVA eligible districts submitted four applications for BMP construction requesting $20,000.

Conservation irrigation conversion

No TVA eligible districts submitted applications for this BMP.

Draft Western Region PY2014 AgWRAP allocation

Region	Type of Agriculture	BMP	Applicant	County	Acres irrigated or animals watered	Total Percent	Total AgWRAP Request	TVA Available funds	SWCC AgWRAP funds	Notes
								$ 374,198	$ 219,538	
Western	Field crops	repair/retrofit	Dale McCurdy	Alexander	25	59.19%	$ 22,500		$ 197,038	
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	John W. Mitchell	Macon	10	50.00%	$ 15,000	$ 359,198		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Stanley A. Beam	Gaston	15	46.73%	$ 27,000		$ 170,038	
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Samuel Boggess	Yancey	2	43.75%	$ 15,000	$ 344,198		
Western	Animals	repair/retrofit	Marvin Hutchison	Cleveland	75 cow/calf	35.65%	$ 15,000		$ 155,038	
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Nottely River Valley Farms, LLC	Cherokee	5.5	34.62%	$ 15,000	$ 329,198		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	repair/retrofit	Gary Davis	Lincoln	45	31.32%	$ 15,000		$ 140,038	
Western	Field crops	repair/retrofit	Jeffery J. Smith	Yadkin	20	30.83%	$ 15,000		$ 125,038	will use division engineering resources per Dennis 3/28/14; value decreased to $15,000
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	T & D Orchards	Henderson	25	29.85%	$ 15,000	$ 314,198		
Western	Animals	repair/retrofit	Jerry Plemmons	Buncombe	14 cow/calf	29.17%	$ 22,500	$ 291,698		
Western	Animals	new pond	Randy Smith	Polk	50 cow calf	29.01%	$ 18,000		$ 107,038	
Western	Fruit and vegetable	sediment removal	Kerri Parker	Madison	0	27.27%	$5,000	$ 286,698		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	repair/retrofit	Flying Cloud Farm	Buncombe	14	27.01%	$ 22,500	$ 264,198		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	sediment removal	McConnell Farms, Inc.	Henderson	64	26.62%	$5,000	$ 259,198		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	sediment removal	McConnell Farms, Inc.	Henderson	64	25.89%	$5,000	$ 254,198		
Western	Green industry	sediment removal	Doug Dellinger	Mitchell	9	25.29%	$5,000	$ 249,198		
Western	Animals	repair/retrofit	Doug Stanfield	Graham	20 goats	25.00%	$ 15,000	$ 234,198		
Western	Animals	new pond	Allen Dehart	Graham	6 horses	23.08%	$ 15,000	$ 219,198		
Western	Animals	new pond	John Lovin	Graham	12 horses	23.08%	$ 15,000	$ 204,198		
Western	Animals	repair/retrofit	Jeff Phillips	Graham	6 cattle, 10 goats, 2 horses	23.00%	$ 15,000	$ 189,198		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	David Hickson	Cherokee	0.04	22.15%	$ 15,000	$ 174,198		
Western	Animals	sediment removal	Larry Walls	Graham	12 cow calf	18.18%	$5,000	$ 169,198		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	repair/retrofit	Wanda Jean Hedden/Betty Wilson	Cherokee	1.2	17.86%	$ 15,000	$ 154,198		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	repair/retrofit	Henry and Barbara Raper	Cherokee	50	13.85%	$ 15,000	$ 139,198		
Western	Animals	sediment removal	Beverly Whitehead	Graham	20 cattle 4 horses	13.64%	$5,000	$ 134,198		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Ronnie Wilson	Cherokee	3.5	13.46%	$ 15,000	$ 119,198		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	repair/retrofit	Stephen Berry Laughter	Henderson	70	12.65%	$ 15,000	$ 104,198		
Western	Field crops	new pond	John Taylor Kirkpatrick	Haywood	38	12.18%	$ 22,500	$ 81,698		
Western	Animals	sediment removal	Pat Hoxit	Transylvania	50 whitetail deer	11.85%	$ 5,000	$ 76,698		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	sediment removal	Bill Tipton	Cherokee	1	11.69%	$5,000	$ 71,698		
Western	Animals	new pond	Ben Ousley	Cleveland	200 lamb/ewe	11.54%	$ 15,000		$ 92,038	
Western	Green industry	new pond	Doug Dellinger	Mitchell	9	11.27%	$ 15,000	$ 56,698		

Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Chris Tomczak	Cherokee	1.5	10.47%	$ 15,000	$ 41,698		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Whisper Mountain	Graham	1	10.26%	$ 15,000	$ 26,698		
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Harold Whimire	Transylvania	8	9.58%	$ 15,000	$ 11,698		
Western	Animals	new pond	Charles Kissling	Clay	10	8.59%	$ 15,000		$ 77,038	District chose to use division engineering instead of private PE. Reduced allocation to $7500
Western	Animals	new pond	Tommy Phillips	Mitchell	15 cow/calf	7.14%	$ 15,000		$ 62,038	
Western	Fruit and vegetable	repair/retrofit	Janet Peterson Cloud 9 Farm	Buncombe	4	6.67%	$ 22,500		$ 39,538	
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Kevin and Dana Murphy	Cherokee	1	5.17%	$ 15,000		$ 24,538	
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Gary Wilson	Cherokee	2	4.85%	$ 15,000		$ 9,538	
Western	Field crops	new pond	Audrey Ware	Cherokee	40	2.59%	$ 15,000	0	$ 6,236	
Western	Green industry	new pond	Mountain Meadow Nursery	Buncombe	2	1.85%	$ 15,000			
Western	Field crops	repair/retrofit	James Alan Best -1	Haywood	12	1.38%	$ 22,500			
Western	Field crops	repair/retrofit	James Alan Best - 2	Haywood	12	1.07%	$ 22,500			
Western	Field crops	new pond	Jon Grady	Haywood	40	0.10%	$ 22,500			
Western	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	James Spurling	Cherokee	0.04	0.00%	$ 15,000			

TVA	$	425,000
streamside pickup	$	33,902
micro-irrigation	$	16,900
Available	$	374,198

Draft Central Region PY2014 AgWRAP allocation

Region	Type of Agriculture	BMP	Applicant	County	Acres irrigated or animals watered	Total Percent	Total AgWRAP Request	Available funds $ 219,538	Notes
Central	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Robert Ruta	Durham	10	51.92%	$ 27,000	$ 192,538	
Central	Field crops	sediment removal	Billy Carter	Moore	20	40.91%	$ 3,000	$ 189,538	
Central	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Root Down Farm	Orange	10	39.81%	$ 18,000	$ 171,538	
Central	Animals	repair/retrofit	Kevin Lineberry	Randolph	80,000 broilers	37.50%		$ 171,538	*did not move to contract. District notified division June 9,2014
Central	Aquaculture	new pond	Spencer Dean	Franklin	Tilapia	34.62%	$ 15,000		
Central	Field crops	new pond	Richard Seawell	Moore	15	33.69%	$ 15,000	$ 156,538	
Central	Animals	repair/retrofit	James Davis	Davidson	20 beef cows	33.33%	$ 22,500	$ 134,038	
Central	Field crops	sediment removal	Tony Ross #3	Moore	25	32.18%	$ 4,000	$ 130,038	
Central	Animals	sediment removal	Ethen Gilliland	Chatham	52 beef cattle	29.62%	$ 5,000	$ 125,038	
Central	Field crops	new pond	Billy Carter	Moore	16	28.72%	$ 15,000	$ 110,038	
Central	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	David K. Walker	Orange	3.5	27.91%	$ 15,000	$ 95,038	
Central	Animals	sediment removal	Ethen Gilliland	Chatham	52 beef cattle	27.32%	$ 5,000	$ 90,038	
Central	Field crops	sediment removal	Tony Ross #2	Moore	10	26.59%	$ 3,000	$ 87,038	
Central	Field Crops	repair/retrofit	John M. Langdon	Johnston	86	25.97%	$ 22,500	$ 64,538	
Central	Field crops	new pond	Melvin Huneycutt	Stanly	75	25.40%	$ 15,000	$ 49,538	
Central	Field crops	sediment removal	Tony Ross #1	Moore	16	25.03%	$ 3,000	$ 46,538	
Central	Fruit and vegetable	sediment removal	Ken Riggsbee	Moore	1.5	20.91%	$ 3,000	$ 43,538	
Central	Field crops	new pond	Brian Lewis	Guilford	50	17.73%	$ 15,000	$ 28,538	
Central	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Marshall Sink	Davidson	12	13.63%	$ 22,500		
Central	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Shawn Dezern	Randolph	1.3	6.15%	$ 18,000		

Draft Eastern Region PY2014 AgWRAP allocation

Region	Type of Agriculture	BMP	Applicant	County	Acres irrigated or animals watered	Total Percent	Total AgWRAP Request	Available funds $ 219,538	Notes
Eastern	Field crops	new pond	Lucky 4 Farms	Greene	165	50.77%	$ 22,500	$ 197,038	
Eastern	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Stephen Douglas	Duplin	8	50.00%	$ 15,000	$ 182,038	
Eastern	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Timothy Killette	Duplin	20	39.01%	$ 15,000	$ 167,038	
Eastern	Field crops	sediment removal	Bradley Gillam	Hertford	140	38.88%	$ 6,000	$ 161,038	
Eastern	Fruit and vegetable	new pond	Randy Patterson	Duplin	25	33.85%	$ 15,000	$ 146,038	
Eastern	Field crops	new pond	Joyner Farms	Hertford	66	33.50%		$ 146,038	*did not move to contract. District notified division June 6,2014
Eastern	Field crops	new pond	Warren Sloan	Duplin	50	25.47%	$ 15,000	$ 131,038	
Eastern	Field crops	repair/retrofit	Coleman Taylor	Hertford	50	21.48%	$ 15,000	$ 116,038	
Eastern	Field crops	repair/retrofit	Mack L. Grady	Wayne	80	15.96%	$ 22,500	$ 93,538	
Eastern	Field crops	repair/retrofit	William Richard Helms, Jr.	Wayne	79.7	12.83%	$ 22,500	$ 71,038	
Eastern	Field crops	new pond	Richard Sholar	Duplin	35	12.71%	$ 15,000	$ 56,038	
Eastern	Field crops	sediment removal	Newsome Farms	Hertford	85	11.92%	$ 5,000	$ 51,038	
Eastern	Field crops	new pond	Kevin Whaley	Onslow	42.5	8.94%	$ 15,000	$ 36,038	
Eastern	Field crops	new pond	J & J Lewis Farms	Pitt	150	7.67%	$ 22,500	$ 13,538	
Eastern	Field crops	sediment removal	S & S Farms	Hertford	75	7.27%	$ 5,000	$ 8,538	
Eastern	Green industry	new pond	Sandy Plain Sod	Duplin	50	2.75%	$ 15,000		
		pond repair/retrofit		Pitt					

2014 Spring Supplemental Allocation
Cost Share Funds and Impaired/Impacted Stream Initiative

ATTACHMENT 10

County	CS Request	CS Allocation	ISI Grant Request	ISI Grant Allocation
Alamance	$25,000	$6,403		
Alexander	$42,000	$7,980		
Alleghany	$30,000	$6,624		
Anson	$30,000	$7,652		
Ashe	$150,000	$6,855		
Avery	$15,000	$6,949		
Beaufort	$30,446	$6,836		
Buncombe	$20,000	$7,876		
Burke			$ 15,000	$ 9,860
Camden	$20,000	$4,408		
Catawba	$5,000	$5,000		
Cherokee			$ 20,000	$ 8,004
Cleveland	$15,000	$8,070		
Duplin	$120,000	$10,488		
Forsyth	$30,000	$4,736		
Franklin	$15,000	$7,138		
Gaston	$60,324	$6,522		
Gates	$37,000	$3,814		
Graham	$7,500	$4,346		
Guilford	$100,000	$5,901		
Halifax	$31,275	$6,211		
Haywood	$34,000	$5,846	$ 73,500	$ 9,450
Henderson	$32,323	$7,645	$ 30,000	$ 12,360
Hertford	$5,000	$4,852		
Hyde	$12,407	$5,082		
Iredell	$12,000	$6,848		
Johnston	$25,000	$8,047		
Jones	$50,000	$6,614		
Lee	$7,686	$6,105		
Madison			$ 30,000	$ 10,651
McDowell	$10,000	$5,383		
Mecklenburg			$ 25,000	$ 6,325
Mitchell	$10,000	$7,551		
Moore	$20,400	$6,124		
Northampton	$10,648	$5,329		
Pamlico	$16,600	$6,765		
Polk	$10,000	$6,682		
Randolph	$87,500	$7,759		
Robeson	$11,000	$8,433		
Rockingham			$ 50,000	$ 12,465
Rowan	$14,115	$8,933		
Rutherford	$10,000	$6,918		
Sampson	$20,000	$8,728		
Surry	$75,000	$8,945	$ 22,000	$ 14,462
Swain	$20,497	$4,261		
Union	$20,000	$7,493	$ 15,000	$ 12,115
Wake	$61,293	$7,000		
Warren	$5,416	$5,416		
Watauga	$100,000	$7,636		
Wayne	$23,445	$6,638		
Wilkes	$173,548	$8,185		
Wilson	$15,000	$4,885		
Yadkin	$14,303	$7,811	$ 25,000	$ 12,345
Yancey	$28,610	$6,598		
Total	$1,719,336	$328,321	$ 305,500	$ 108,037

Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Soil and Water Conservation

Patricia K. Harris
Director

December 10, 2013

Mr. Mike Robinson, Chairman
Lenoir Soil and Water Conservation District
2026 Hwy 11/55
Kinston, NC 28504

Dear Chairman Robinson:

We appreciate you, supervisors Hughes and Putnam, and your staff meeting with us on September 4 to discuss the Division's review of the Lenoir district's implementation of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP). We felt the meeting was helpful and productive.

Following is the division's reaction to the Action Plan we were presented during the meeting. The Action Plan includes several positive actions that will address many of the concerns noted in the review, but it does not fully address all of the concerns. Each of the concerns noted in the review will be repeated below, followed by a commentary on how the Action Plan addresses the concern and any further actions recommended to address the concern.

Contracts Implemented Prior to Division Approval
Fifteen contracts were found to have been implemented prior to division approval. For many of these contracts there was a long lapse between the date the district board approved the contract and the date it was submitted to the division for approval.

The district's proposed **action item #4** calls for any contract that has not been approved by the division to be spot checked by the staff or with the assistance of a supervisor to ensure that the practice has not been started prior to approval. To ensure the effectiveness of this action the spot check should be made at the time the cooperator is notified that the contract has been approved by the division and they are authorized to begin work.

Other recommended actions to address this concern include:

1) Submit each contract for division approval within 1-2 weeks following board approval, instead of holding the contract for several months. The longer time that elapses before the contract is submitted for approval, the more likely the cooperator will feel compelled to proceed with installation prior to approval.

2) Board of supervisors review receipts showing the dates that the work was completed prior to approving request for payment for each contract.
3) Board of supervisors review documentation of field checks for cropland conversion, conservation tillage, long-term no-till, and nutrient management to ensure the contract is approved prior to the field check.

Ineligible Contracts

Nine contracts were found to contain elements that were ineligible for cost share. Of these, six involved cropland conversion to grass where the FSA cropping history shows at least part of the fields to be in grass prior to the year the contract was approved. Another contract for 3-year conservation tillage included fields that were enrolled in CRP.

The district's proposed **action item #2** calls for any contract for cropland conversion to include in the file a copy of the crop history report showing the fields to be in cropland 3 out of the last 5 years. This action item is certainly a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough. If a field was converted to grass in the previous year, it may meet the test of being in cropland for 3 out of the last 5 years, but that field is not eligible for cropland conversion since it was already converted and no water quality concern remains to be treated.

Another recommendation is for the Board of supervisors, prior to approving the contract, to review the cropping history and photos of the fields to be treated to verify the field has not already been established to grass and that a water quality concern still exists.

Action items #4 and #7 should also be helpful to ensure that ineligible contracts are not approved and implemented.

Overpaid Contracts

Ten contracts were found to be overpaid based on the documentation that was found in the file. The overpayments are associated with components for which the file lacks necessary supporting documentation, for contracts where actual acreage planted does not add up to the acres shown on the request for payment, and contracts where the receipts in the file do not add up to the amount shown on the request for payment. It is important to remember that contracts are seldom implemented exactly as planned.

The district's action plan does not include any action items that address this concern specifically. One **recommendation** is for the supervisors to review the file prior to approving requests for payment to ensure that there is documentation (e.g., receipts as-built, field notes) to support every item and component, that the quantities and acreages shown on the request for payment were actually completed, and that receipts for items paid at actual cost support the amount in the request for payment.

Inadequate Follow-Up on Out of Compliance Contract

The division's review included a contract that was thought to be out of compliance due to waste application in excess of the waste plan. At the September 4 meeting it was discovered that division staff had misinterpreted the information in the file. The contract is actually in compliance according to the records in the file. **No further response is needed for this concern.**

Unauthorized Signature for Job Approval Authority

Seven contracts were found to have been certified by David Anderson when he did not have the appropriate job approval authority per NRCS records. The district's **proposed action item #5** calls for the district conservationist or area engineer to sign for design and installation approval authority for practices for which the district staff does not Job Approval Authority. This is exactly what should happen.

The board of supervisors needs to know which practices the district staff have Job Approval Authority and which ones require higher level approval. To facilitate this awareness, the division recommends job approval authority records for all district staff be readily available for review at every district board meeting. The supervisors should verify that each practice design and installation is approved by someone with appropriate authority.

The board of supervisors should also create the expectation that the district staff work with the district conservationist and area office staff to obtain job approval authority for as many practices that are typically implemented in the district as possible.

Spot Check Discrepancies & District Follow Up

The division's review included two contracts with discrepancies related to spot checks and district follow up on non-compliance. The district's **proposed action item #3** calls for all contracts that are spot checked will have a photograph and notes to verify compliance. This action will be good to document compliance. However, the district's spot checks may not have been sufficiently thorough, since a 2010 spot check did not detect that 7.2 acres of trees were missing from one field. Supervisors should have access to the contracts prior to the spot check field visits. This will allow them to understand what they are to be looking for each file. Care needs to be taken to review all of the fields that are included in the contract not just the ones that are easily accessed.

The district also needs to implement greater follow-up procedures to document that contracts found to be out of compliance are either returned to compliance or paid back. All compliance issues need to be reported immediately to the division cost share staff.

Apparent Conflict of Interest

The Division's review points out concern about David Anderson's secondary employment being contrary to paragraphs 1b,c,d,and f of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission's advisory related to secondary employment. The district's action plan does not propose any actions to address this concern.

The division recommends the board take action to eliminate the apparent conflict of interest. Each district employee who has a secondary employment association with any cooperator should at a minimum be required to declare the association. Any cost share assistance needed by that cooperator should be provided by someone other than the employee with the declared conflict. Further an employee should not sign as either a district representative or technical approval for any contract with a cooperator with whom he has associated secondary employment.

General Actions

The district's proposed action items include two general actions that have the potential to be helpful. **Action item #1** proposes for supervisors to receive a copy of all contracts prior to being approved at board meetings. **Action item #6** proposes that the district conservationist review all contracts to ensure they meet NRCS standards and guidelines. This action is already necessary for the practices for which district staff do not have the necessary job approval authority. Requiring the district conservationist to look oversee the district staff for practices for which they have JAA may have the unintended consequence of diverting the district conservationist's time away from other cooperators needing assistance.

Summary

The concerns noted in the review are serious and numerous. The district's proposed action plan and the division's recommended additional actions are aimed at preventing recurrences, but they may not thoroughly address the

root of the problems noted in the division's review. The district supervisors are encouraged to investigate further to determine what may have led to the noted concerns.

Supervisors need to be able to depend on their experienced staff to understand and carry out the requirements of the programs administered through the district. The actions proposed by the district and those recommended by the division may seem to be excessive, but it is clear from the breadth and depth of concerns found during the division's review that the supervisors of the Lenoir SWCD need to become more involved in oversight for the program to establish greater accountability for the district staff. Failure to do so threatens the district and the conservation programs it is charged to administer to the citizens of the Lenoir District.

Please let me know if you have questions about this response or if you need further assistance to implement the necessary corrective actions.

Sincerely,

David B. Williams

David B. Williams, Deputy Director

Cc: Randy Smith, Vice Chair
Charles Hughes, Treasurer
Lynwood Earl Everett, Supervisor
Steven Putnam, Supervisor
Soil and Water Conservation Commission
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